celebrate!
100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

and 2006 Annual Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Alberta Branch

Legislative Assembly Office Annual Report

2006

In celebration of 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly displayed banners honouring Alberta's past Premiers and Speakers.

Legislative Assembly Office

March 31, 2007

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

As required by Standing Orders, I am pleased to submit the 20th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office. This report describes the activities of the Legislative Assembly Office with a focus on four key areas of responsibility in which support was provided to Members during the calendar year ended December 31, 2006. Also presented are the audited financial statements for the 2005–2006 fiscal year and the 10th annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

As you flip through the pages of this report you will see photos documenting our 100 Years of Democracy celebrations that began on March 15, 2006. This day marked 100 years since the first sitting of Alberta's first Legislative Assembly, and in commemoration numerous events and initiatives were undertaken to honour our legislative system and the contributions of Members in the building of our province.

I was especially honoured to receive congratulations from Their Excellencies The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond, C.C., during their visit on May 4, 2006. Another highlight of the celebrations was the 100 Years of Democracy dinner held on March 15, which brought together Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly from throughout Alberta's history.

I would like to thank all current and former Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly for their participation in the celebrations as well as recognize the outstanding support of Legislative Assembly Office staff.

I also thank all MLAs for supporting the work of the Legislative Assembly Office and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kowalski

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

Legislative Assembly Office

March 31, 2007

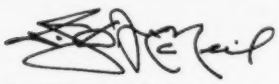
To the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

I am honoured to present to you the 20th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office and the 10th annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Legislative Assembly Office report includes the audited financial statements regarding the operation of the Legislative Assembly Office for the 2005–2006 fiscal year, and the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association report outlines the various developmental opportunities afforded Members who attended interparliamentary conferences.

This Legislative Assembly Office report focuses on results-based reporting and includes highlights of the past year's 100 Years of Democracy celebrations.

I felt privileged to be part of the celebrations and am proud of the contributions made by LAO staff in the organization and execution of events and initiatives to support this milestone.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. W.J. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

OUR MISSION

To provide nonpartisan parliamentary support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

OUR VISION

RESPECT TRADITION

EXEMPLIFY SERVICE

PROMOTE INNOVATION

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

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The 26th Legislature in session.

An Introduction

Legislative Assembly Office: In service to Alberta's parliament

Thousands gather for free family festivities on Canada Day.

The origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) can be traced to 14th century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. Today the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the head of the LAO, and the Clerk is the Speaker's deputy. The Legislative Assembly Act of 1983 made the LAO's current name official.

The most common misconception about the LAO is that it is a branch of government and that its staff are government employees. However, in the parliamentary system the government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws; the Legislative Assembly is the legislative branch, responsible for establishing those laws. The Legislative Assembly Office provides various types of support to the entire Assembly – both Members of government and opposition caucuses.

Although the LAO is sometimes called the Speaker's department, it is not a government department. The Speaker does not belong to the cabinet and cannot be asked questions during Oral Question Period or participate in the Assembly's debates. However, the Speaker does have administrative authority and responsibility similar to that of a minister of a government department. The Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a deputy minister.

The Speaker has two distinct but related roles. In the Assembly the Speaker maintains order and ensures that Members of the Legislative Assembly conduct their business according to the Standing Orders of the Assembly.

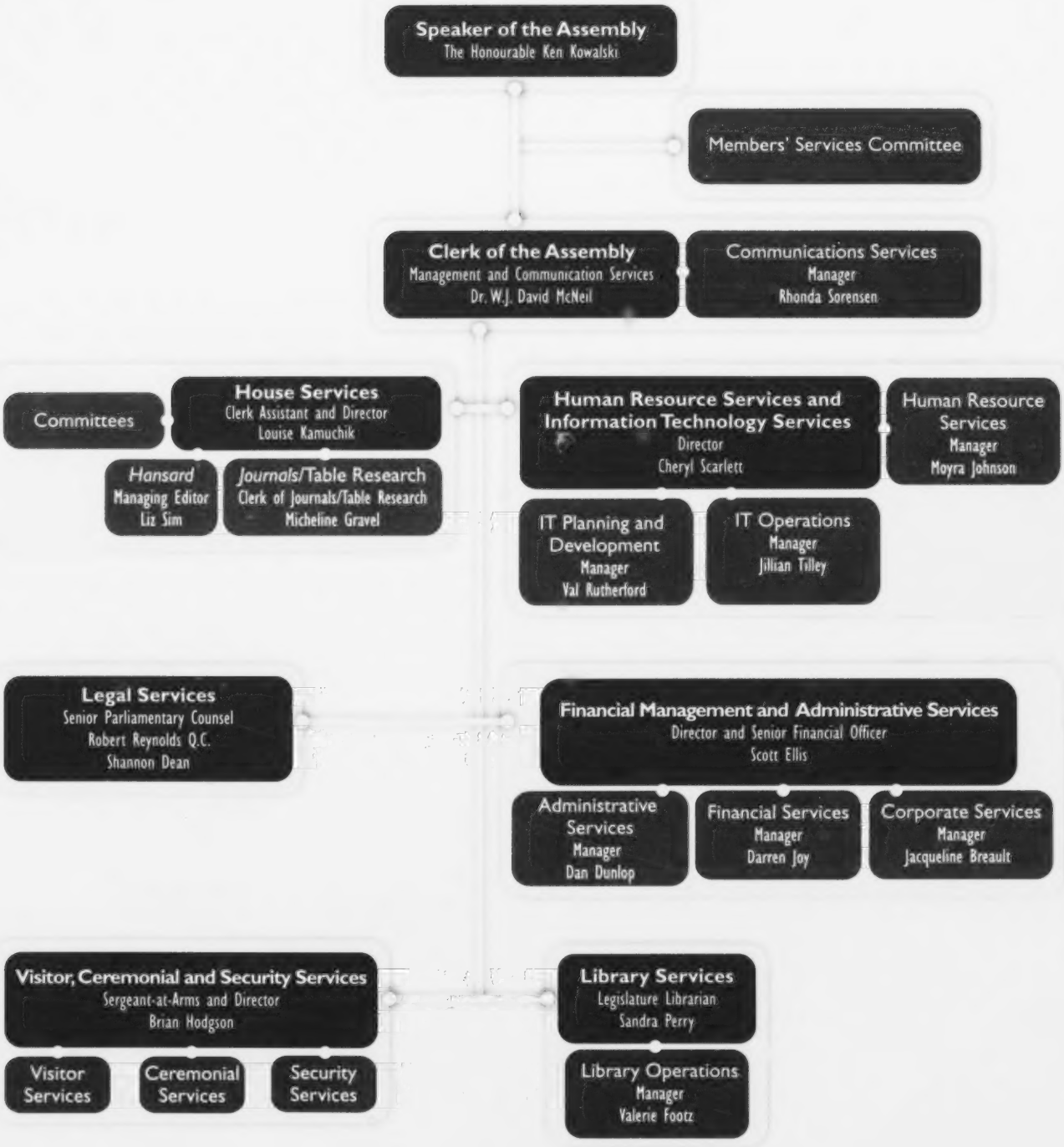
Administratively, the Speaker is responsible for the Assembly's records and for ensuring the provision of a range of services to Members and the public. The latter include financial administration, human resource management, technological support, public education programming, purchasing, communications and library, legal and parliamentary services.

The LAO as a whole has the same procedural and administrative roles. This is a unique characteristic and is evident throughout the office, particularly during session, when the normal duties, work hours and office locations of many staff change significantly.

The LAO's annual budget as well as provisions for financial and human resource administration are under the purview of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. As an all-party committee of the Assembly the Members' Services Committee regulates constituency office support and Members' pay, allowances, benefits and group insurance plans, all of which the LAO administers. Traditionally, the Speaker chairs the Members' Services Committee.

Each party of elected members, or caucus, is a branch of the LAO. Although the Speaker technically has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons these branches operate with considerable autonomy. Therefore, the caucus branches are not part of this report; it includes only branches of the LAO under the Speaker's full control. However, since the caucuses receive financial, administrative, research and human resource services as well as other support from other branches of the LAO, this report does comment on those services. In addition, the office's consolidated budget estimates and audited financial statements, which appear at the end of this report, include caucus finances.

Organizational Chart



(L to R): Former Premier of Alberta Hon. Peter Lougheed; the Hon. Dave Hancock, MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud; Jan Mitsosz Lisiecki, the grade 6 student winner of the What Democracy Means to Me essay contest; and the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Responsible for processing the daily business of the House and providing management and communications support to all branches of the LAO.

The Clerk's Office is also responsible for the operation of the Legislature information line. The Clerk acts as a liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments and assists in co-ordinating Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (FMAS)

Provides full accounting services such as budget preparation and monitoring, payment processing and financial reporting as well as administrative services, including equipment and supply procurement, telecommunications management, constituency office leasing and credit card administration. FMAS also handles the responsibilities under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Records Management Guidelines for the LAO.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES (HRS)

Advises on employment and policy issues for the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituencies and the LAO as well as manages the Legislative Assembly human resource and payroll system, including co-ordinating MLA and staff compensation plans and administering employee and service contracts. In addition, HRS oversees the recruitment and retention policies for nonpartisan positions, ensures safe work practices and promotes health and wellness initiatives.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

ITS is dedicated to providing all technology services to the Speaker, Members, Caucuses and Constituency Offices.

ITS places a major emphasis on supporting the technology interdependencies between clients and ensures that the operation of all services, including network infrastructure, application development, hardware and software, is reliable and operational.

LEGAL SERVICES – PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

Provide legal advice on a wide range of matters, including parliamentary procedure, and draft private Members' public bills and private bills. Both Senior Parliamentary Counsel serve as Table Officers in the House and advise the Speaker on points of order and questions of privilege.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Offers information, news and reference and research services to the Members and their staff using current library and information technology. As well, Library Services provides training in the use of services that are delivered electronically to the Members' desktops.

HOUSE SERVICES

Along with providing advice on parliamentary procedure, producing the Votes and Proceedings, Order Paper, *Journals* and assisting in maintaining House records such as bills and motions, House Services provides all arrangements for the Assembly's standing, special standing and select special committee meetings and assists with expenses, budgets, historical records and transcripts relating to committees. In addition, the recording and publishing of print and electronic versions of *Alberta Hansard*, the official report of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, fall under the responsibility of House Services. This includes the administration of a subscription service to *Alberta Hansard*, Votes and Proceedings and bills and distribution of sessional publications. The *Hansard* staff in the House Services Branch also provide proofreading and editing services to other branches.

VISITOR, CEREMONIAL AND SECURITY SERVICES (VCSS)

Plans and executes ceremonial and special events as well as the co-ordination of school and public outreach programs, tours of the facilities and delivery of several educational and orientation materials. Maintaining security in the Chamber and precincts, providing security-related advice to constituency offices and managing the Alberta Legislative Assembly page program are also responsibilities of VCSS.

OUR VALUES

IMPARTIALITY ⊞ INTEGRITY ⊞ IMPROVEMENT

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and reflect the qualities of the office as a whole.

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

Key Responsibilities

As part of the Legislative Assembly's 100 Years of Democracy celebrations a series of historical plaques documenting Alberta's heritage from the presettlement era to the present day were developed. They were unveiled at the March 15 dinner and are now housed along Members' Way in the Legislature pedway.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 1:

Provision of timely, professional advice and impartial information to Members

Information

Advice

FMAS provided information and advice regarding changes to Members' Services Committee Orders affecting Members' allowances and entitlements (Members' Services Allowances, temporary residence allowance) in 2006. FMAS also advised Independent Members on budget and expenditures.

In addition, FMAS advised Members and constituency staff regarding the use of Member/constituency websites and conferred with other LAO managers to draft guidelines for Member/constituency website usage. As well, FMAS offered advice on best practices for the organization and disposition of Members' records and assisted with the disposition of Members' records as requested.

Due to the leadership race in 2006 various MLA appointments within the government Members' caucus changed. As a result, HRS conferred with Members on subsequent pay and benefit adjustments as well as matters relating to contract administration of staff impacted by the cabinet shuffles. HRS also supported the transition of a new whip and chief of staff for the government Members' caucus.

Parliamentary Counsel provided support and advice to the Speaker and other presiding officers on parliamentary law and privilege.

In addition, Parliamentary Counsel reviewed amendments, private Members' motions, motions for return, written questions and petitions as well as responded to questions from Members, caucus and constituency staff on a variety of legal and procedural issues. A wide array of contracts/agreements dealing with licensing, leases, employment and fee for service and other service arrangements were also reviewed and/or prepared by Parliamentary Counsel.

Additionally, drafting and procedural expertise were provided by Parliamentary Counsel in the preparation of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Assembly and Members' Services Committee Orders as well as in the preparation of private Members' public bills and private bills. In 2006, 13 public bills and four private bills were introduced.

Continued next page

Parliamentary Counsel also monitored legal actions affecting the Legislative Assembly, defended the interests of the Assembly when required and provided briefings to constituency office and caucus staff on procedural matters and legal issues. Parliamentary Counsel provided legal services to the Chief Electoral Officer as well.

House Services provided procedural advice and guidance to the Speaker and Members and staff as well as provided support to the Table Officers of the Assembly.

The Sergeant-at-Arms or the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms visited 31 constituency offices to offer face-to-face advice on office safety and personal safety. The office of the Sergeant-at-Arms provided further advice and support to consistency offices as needed.

Publications

Hansard continued to meet all publication and delivery targets in 2006 and reported over 310 hours of meetings of the Assembly and its committees, transcribing in excess of 2.5 million words and publishing 2,416 pages of transcript.

In addition to preparing and editing *Hansard*, House Services maintained House records and statistics as well as prepared and edited the 2006 *Journals*, Order Paper and Votes and Proceedings for the Second Session of the 26th Legislature. During session House Services prepared daily scripts for the Speaker as well as scripts for participants in ceremonial functions.

Library Services prepared a series of bibliographies covering topics such as oil sands development, police governance, student health and wellness, child care, alternative energy resources, democratic reform and lobbying and lobbyists. As well, Library Services' Profiles Service, which provides e-mail updates of newspaper and periodical articles to Members and LAO staff following particular issues, monitored 17 different topics of interest.

Online Information

Communications Services produced a 100 Years of Democracy website linked from the Legislative Assembly site to promote centennial events and initiatives.

Library Services redesigned and redeveloped the online version of Scrapbook *Hansard* in partnership with Communications Services and ITS. Scrapbook *Hansard* Digital Library was launched internally on November 30 at the Constituency Employee Seminar. The digital collection currently consists of 5,049 newspaper articles spanning 20 years.

Library Services provided desktop access to improved search features of the Canadian Research Index and the Canadian Business and Current Affairs databases. Also, Library Services added Library PressDisplay and PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service) to the online database system and made the electronic edition of the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide* available online.

In addition, the Alberta Electronic Government Documents Archive, developed and maintained by Library Services, expanded to include 2,654 documents, increasing the size of this collection by 28 per cent over the previous year. Access to this archive is available in the library catalogue. The library collection as a whole grew by approximately 3 per cent, including subscriptions to 16 new periodical and newspaper titles.

Library Services also continued to microfilm weekly newspapers and compile New Books in the Library (NBIL), Selected Periodical Articles in the Library (SPAL), Ministers and Critics and Canadian Legislation alerting services.

As part of the online expansion of the health and safety program Human Resource Services (HRS) created a monthly tipsheet identifying potential hazards and preventative actions and moved to electronic quarterly reporting of statistics.

General Information

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) conducted orientations for new caucus managers as well as developed and presented caucus expenditure guidelines to the Members' Services Committee. These guidelines were approved at the December 2006 meeting. FMAS also conducted a caucus seminar regarding online personal expense claims and allowable Members' expenses.

Parliamentary Counsel prepared the annual list of required tablings and circulated it to all Members, officers of the Legislature and senior officials throughout government prior to session.

Communications Services continued to produce the bimonthly newsletter *Preview*, which highlights Legislature programs and events, as well as manage the Legislature information line. Staff fielded 2,973 inquiries in 2006.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 2:

Provision of services, equipment, supplies and facilities on a timely basis

Services

General Services

Communications Services developed a new visual identity for the LAO as well as corresponding guidelines for usage of the identity in response to the overwhelmingly positive feedback on the 100 Years of Democracy identity design developed

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On March 15, 2006, a dinner was held in celebration of the Alberta Legislative Assembly's 100th anniversary. Members current and past were in attendance and as part of the ceremonies received commemorative medallions for years of service. This photo shows the Hon. Ken Kowalski at the podium with Legislature pages poised to present the medallions.

in 2005 and used throughout 2006. Implementation of the new identity will begin in 2007.

Additionally, Communications Services continued to provide general communications support to the other branches, including strategic planning as well as the development of writing and design pieces tailored to meet individual branch objectives. Communications Services also provided speech writing and photography services in support of a variety of annual and centennial events.

With the support of Parliamentary Counsel Communications Services prepared contracts and continued to manage the broadcast of House proceedings.

In conjunction with Communications Services HRS developed a new image and style for recruitment advertisements and revised the career section of the LAO website to better market the culture and benefits of working for the LAO.

HRS provided one-on-one commencements for 63 new salaried and 95 wage employees consulted with 37 terminating salaried employees and retiring employees and processed 110 wage terminations. In addition, HRS co-ordinated leaves of absence for 13 employees and 17 transfers to other public service agencies. HRS also supported 69 summer staff and administered 139 contracts.

As well, nine competitions were held, and 25 employees were recruited. This involved HRS screening over 181 resumés and conducting 96 interviews.

HRS worked with the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms to conduct 31 interviews for the Alberta Legislature page program and worked with House Services in the recruitment of House of Commons pages by conducting interviews with applicants from across Alberta.

The Sergeant-at-Arms provided speech writing services for a number of events including the Eid-ul-Adha ceremony, the unveiling of the White Ensign plaque, the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex, the poppy presentation and the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Hansard continued to provide effective proofreading services to other branches of the LAO as well as co-operated with Communications Services in the production of special-edition *Hansards* in commemoration of the 100 Years of Democracy celebrations on March 15 and the retirement of Premier Ralph Klein. These unique documents included photos and captions as well as the relevant portions of the transcript.

Hansard also produced close to 600 speech reprints in paper, electronic and audio format for Members.

FMAS initiated an Information and Records Management (IRM) Committee, which includes representation from all branches of the LAO. The committee provides information on IRM practices, acts as an advisory body to the Clerk and assisted with the selection of a contractor to develop a strategic plan for IRM.

In addition, FMAS fully implemented the AMEX corporate credit card as the new MLA travel card and liaised with legislative offices staff to discuss consistent budget and reporting practices as well as other common financial issues.

Committee Support

House Services provided procedural, research and organizational support to the chairs and members of the Assembly's standing and special standing committees as well as for three select special committees. Budget requirements for all committees were prepared for presentation to the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services, and committee expenditures were reconciled on a monthly/yearly basis. House Services was assisted in its role as committee support by Communications Services and Parliamentary Counsel, who provided planning and procedural expertise respectively.

The 11-member all-party Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee, established by the Legislative Assembly during the 2005

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spring session, completed its mandate with the tabling of its final report at the end of the 2006 spring session.

Also tabled during the spring session of 2006 was the report of the Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee established during the 2005 fall sitting.

In addition, an 11-member all-party Select Special Personal Information Protection Act Review committee was established during the 2006 spring session with an 18-month mandate ending December 2007.

House Services also continued to be responsible for scheduling the use of Legislative Assembly committee rooms and liaising with the committee room facilitator.

Online Services

Based on the information technology strategic plan ITS continued to move forward with several initiatives intended to further enhance services for Members and staff and anticipate future needs. Some projects in or near deployment include secure wireless access as well as data and business process consolidation.

In addition, ITS continued to collaborate with Communications Services on the redevelopment of the LAO's intranet and Internet sites. Based on the results of the previous year's extensive audit and the records management needs of the LAO online, the core committee recommended an extensive rebuild of the internal system with SharePoint portal technology. The rebuild of both Our House and the Assembly sites is expected to be completed by 2008. Communications Services and ITS continue to manage online content.

ITS also assisted House Services with simplifying online access to House records from previous legislatures by streamlining the document search process.

In an effort to streamline operations and facilitate administrative processing for MLAs and staff, ITS worked with FMAS to deliver phase 1 of onTAP (Online Transaction and Approval Processing). This web application collects expense claim data, checks for accuracy and summarizes it appropriately for financial reporting.

FMAS fully implemented a system for electronic, web-based ordering of overprinted materials by Members and staff.

Additionally, with the intention of extending the range and ease of use of web documents, House Services developed and implemented a branch project to convert WordPerfect *Hansard* issue documents into a portable document format (PDF) used universally on the web, scanned all issues of *Hansard* from 1972 through 1990 inclusive and began converting the scans to fully searchable PDF documents through an optical character recognition program. Five years of WordPerfect documents and one year of paper documents have been converted to PDF format for posting on the web.

The most popular and frequently accessed of the Library's web services in 2006 were Alberta Daily News, Reference Shelf and Electronic Resources. The online Library catalogue was enhanced to provide access to available reviews, summaries, tables of contents and book covers. The Library section of the LAO website was also updated to provide more direct access to searchable databases.

Equipment

An exciting initiative by ITS in 2006 was the introduction of Live Meeting. This web application provides a facility to host remote training, meetings and online presentations over the Internet. This tool will facilitate efficient communication with and support of constituency offices from across the province. A new desktop tool, Microsoft Office Communicator, was rolled out in the fall as part of a real-time communication package. ITS has focused considerable efforts on tools to provide MLAs and staff with anytime, anywhere communications.

ITS also continued the upgrade and maintenance of hardware, software and infrastructure for desktops, laptops, servers, switches and cable runs. Software upgrades included a firewall, finance/payroll systems and database servers. As always, considerable time was spent on securing the LAO network.

VCSS collaborated with ITS on the rebuild of the Legislative Assembly Reservation System (LARS) application to better serve MLAs and the public in booking tours and Chamber seating. This application has streamlined the process and provides enhanced tracking and statistical capabilities.

Supplies

FMAS maintained constituency office furniture subsequent to the upgrade project as well as planned and implemented the second phase of the Members' Legislature office furniture upgrade project.

FMAS managed the set-up and reconfiguration of telecommunications services and the provision or moving of Members' furniture.

Additionally, new overprinted stationery was procured by FMAS, which also updated Member's telephone directory listings through liaison with Service Alberta.

As well, FMAS assisted Independent Members with setting up their offices by providing procurement advice and services for telecommunications set-up, online supplies ordering and other administrative assistance. The upgrading

Continued next page

of caucus office furnishings was completed by FMAS in 2006.

Subsequent to the December 2006 cabinet shuffle, FMAS also assisted private government Member offices with budget adjustments, the updating of expenditure officer designations and caucus expenditure guidelines.

Facilities

100 Years of Democracy Initiatives

In celebration of 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta a series of historical plaques documenting Alberta's heritage from the presettlement era through to the present day were produced by Communications Services. The entire collection was unveiled as part of the March 15 celebrations and now adorns the south Legislature pedway, renamed Members' Way.

VCSS partnered with Alberta Infrastructure to commission the design, construction and delivery of 36 leather replica Westminster chairs.

In addition, a stained glass window was commissioned by Library Services in commemoration of 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta and 100 years of service by the Legislature Library. The window was unveiled by the Speaker at a ceremony held in conjunction with the Winter Constituency Staff Administration Seminar.

Communications Services assisted VCSS with the production of ceiling and door graphics for the mock Legislature theatres in the Legislature pedway. Communications Services also assisted with the development of new displays for the School-at-the-Legislature program and the general Legislature programs as well as a display detailing the history of the mace.

VCSS co-ordinated exhibits in the pedway featuring 100 Years of Democracy and Alberta's Speakers as well as displayed the travelling exhibit Behind These Doors, which showcased parliaments across Canada, and a LEGO model of the Misericordia hospital by the Northern Alberta LEGO Users Group.

Painting of mallard ducks, grain elevators and lodgepole pine trees created as insets in the exposed aggregate walls of the north/south pedway was commissioned by VCSS, which also assisted with site preparations for functions hosted in the Interpretive Centre and ensured that the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop continued to provide efficient service to Members and staff.

Security/Safety and Maintenance

The Director of VCSS continued to chair the Legislature Business Resumption Planning Committee as well as the LAO Pandemic Planning Committee, which include representation from various other branches within the LAO.

The Director of VCSS continued to serve on the Security Co-ordination Committee to discuss and co-ordinate security issues related to the Legislature Building and surrounding areas. This committee is comprised of security stakeholders drawn from the LAO, the office of the Solicitor General and Alberta Infrastructure. As well, the office of the Sergeant-At-Arms continued to co-ordinate the maintenance of alarm systems in constituency offices and provide security for Members and for spectators that were seated in the galleries during the 2006 session.

Emergency preparedness continued to be a hot topic for the LAO health and safety program, and new evacuation guidelines, brochures and training sessions were developed for and delivered to the School-at-the-Legislature classroom and visiting school groups as well as the Visitor Services Interpretive Centre.

HRS continued working with building partners to hold evacuation drills in the Annex and the Legislature Building.

As part of HRS's health and safety program first aid kits were delivered to each constituency office, and vehicle first aid kits were distributed to each Member for use while travelling. As well, two immunization clinics provided flu shots for 176 employees in the Legislature area, and the employee assistance and recovery program supported nine employees on extended absences from work and co-ordinated successful return-to-work programs when employees were off work for significant time periods.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 3:

Provision of an effective workplace to support Members

Training/Professional Development

HRS consulted with managers and staff on training options and co-ordinated professional development training for 36 staff as well as provided in-house training sessions, including coaching styles for today's workplace for LAO managers, team building for ITS staff and a session for constituency staff that focused on managing stress and change. First aid training was provided for 51 staff.

Eleven ergonomic representatives were trained by HRS to identify and correct workstation alignments. The LAO's ergonomic program, which focuses on education and awareness in order to prevent injury, provided ergonomic orientations to 30 new employees, refreshers to 19 employees and detailed workstation analyses for eight employees. No injuries were reported.

Continued next page

All Legislative Assembly Security Services (LASS) and Visitor Services staff were trained in first aid, CPR and AED (automated external defibrillation). In addition, LASS staff were trained in basic defensive tactics.

VCSS attended a familiarization tour of two Edmonton tourist sites and professional development sessions, including an all-day VCSS/LAO strategic goals retreat.

The Sergeant-at-Arms/Director of VCSS, LASS, Legislature pages and eight full-time staff attended at least one professional development course in 2006. As well, all Legislature pages were involved in a professional development program and a speech competition.

Library Services participated in a number of training programs and information sessions on topics such as records management, digital archives and online searching.

Organizational Changes

The constituency compensation system was implemented April 1, 2006, allowing for an equitable three-tier compensation system, both salary and benefits, for constituency staff while still giving Members the flexibility to address individual employee needs. HRS processed 110 amendments on existing salary and wage contracts in support of this initiative. Employees were also provided with the opportunity to apply to purchase prior service toward the public service pension plan. HRS compiled detailed pay histories and co-ordinated the documentation process for over 63 applications for the purchase of this prior pension service.

A caucus compensation system for the government Members' caucus was developed by HRS to allow for equitable merit and market increases for caucus staff. Introduced July 1, 2006, the new system involved the development of updated job profiles, pay grids and performance management tools.

HRS also piloted a revised performance management system in three branches, with emphasis on employee achievements and commitment to formal learning plans. With the success of the pilot program the new system will roll out to remaining LAO branches in 2007. A similar system was developed and implemented for managers in May 2006.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREA 4:

Provision of support to maintain and develop the parliamentary system in Alberta

100 Years of Democracy Celebrations

The past year was both busy and exciting as March 15 marked the 100th anniversary of the first sitting of Alberta's first Legislative Assembly and began a year of celebration. To mark the occasion, a number of events were planned and initiatives undertaken. The landmark brought to a close years of planning and preparation for many staff as several projects were unveiled as part of the celebrations.

Various branches of the LAO worked together to plan and execute a number of centennial events. These and other events are detailed in the events section of this annual report.

Communications Services spearheaded a number of initiatives throughout the year-long celebrations. In addition to creating a visual identity and promotional items specific to the celebrations, Communications Services co-ordinated a province-wide advertising campaign, produced specialty item print materials and managed the release of information.

A few projects that stand out for Communications Services are the service medallions honouring current and former Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly and the *100 Years at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta: A Centennial Celebration* coffee-table book, which was distributed to all Members and staff as a keepsake.

Also in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Assembly the Speaker delivered historical vignettes on each sitting day. Research for the vignettes was compiled by Library Services.

Public Education

The Virtual Visit: Step Inside the Alberta Legislature online tour was publicly launched. This groundbreaking interactive tool was developed through partnerships with LearnAlberta and Alberta Education. Various branches of the LAO, including VCSS, Library Services, Communications Services and ITS, collaborated to make this project a success. Communications Services produced all promotional materials and worked with Alberta Education to plan the public launch event, held May 10.

As part of the centennial celebrations Communications Services co-ordinated the What Democracy Means to Me essay contest for Alberta students and seniors. The winners of the contest read their submissions at the public launch of the Virtual Visit.

The School-at-the-Legislature (SATL) program, co-ordinated by VCSS, had 32 classes with a total of 842 students in attendance for 2006. HRS piloted a new presentation to SATL participants, using a career path concept and a visual learning style that allows students to more easily understand and relate to the role of HRS in a parliamentary environment.

Some 71 grade 10 students from throughout the province took part in Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day program on April

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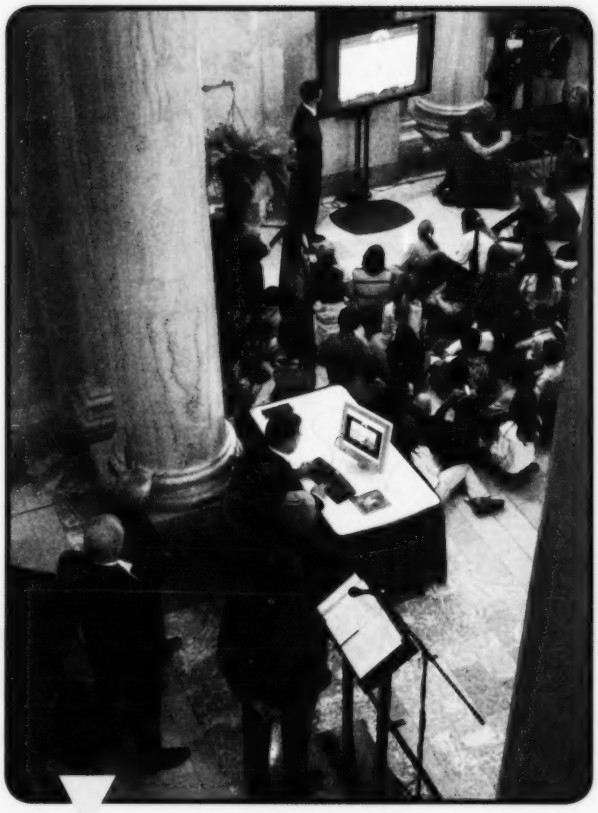

Virtual Visit: Step Inside the Alberta Legislature interactive online tour sneak peek. The groundbreaking tour was produced by Alberta Education in co-operation with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

24 and 25. Participants viewed Oral Question Period and met with Members to discuss the roles of the cabinet, the Official Opposition and the private member. Representatives from the media also shared their experiences and spoke on the role of the press in the parliamentary system. Table Officers facilitated a debate on a motion urging the government to adopt a policy to reduce the voting age in provincial and municipal elections from 18 to 16 years of age. Participant accommodations were provided by the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. This program is co-ordinated by House Services and VCSS.

In addition, every year VCSS co-ordinates and supports several youth parliament organizations holding events at the Legislature.

Hansard partnered with ITS in revamping the *Hansard* display in the Legislature Interpretive Centre. The interactive display now allows visitors to answer an online quiz on *Alberta Hansard*, view a flowchart on production method, and type a sample transcription that calculates typing speed and accuracy.

Parliamentary Counsel participated in teaching courses at postsecondary educational institutions on parliamentary law and parliamentary procedure as well as fulfilled requests for speaking engagements with the Canadian Study of Parliament Group and the University of Alberta.

Library Services provided a series of orientation sessions to students of Grant MacEwan College's Library and Information Studies program and to members of the NEOS Library Consortium. NEOS is a central Alberta consortium of government, health, college and university libraries.

Associations

Alberta's Table Officers continued involvement in the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada through participation in the annual professional development seminar held in the Yukon Territory in 2006.

The Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services continued to act as administrative secretary to the Alberta branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) and provided Member support at the annual regional conference of the APF.

In addition, House Services provided support to Alberta MLAs attending the Joint Conference of Legislative Auditors, the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference and the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Conference.

Hansard assisted in planning the business agenda of the annual conference of the *Hansard* Association of Canada, and at the conference a staff member delivered a presentation on training methods.

The Sergeant-at-Arms continued in a key leadership role hosting the 2006 Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms Conference.

In association with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the Philippines, Parliamentary Counsel served as the Canadian Legislative Advisor for the Legislative Capacity Enhancement Program for the Regional Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in the Philippines. This involved providing

Continued next page

Tour guides welcome the public to the Legislature during the 2006 Canada Day celebrations.

expertise to the Members and staff of the ARMM Legislative Assembly as part of the Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program, a CIDA-funded initiative. Also Parliamentary Counsel continued participation with the Canadian Bar Association and the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada as well as participated in the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table. Additionally, Parliamentary Counsel presented to parliamentary associations, including the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada and the Association of Sergeants-at-Arms.

The Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services and the head of Visitor Services attended the 2006 Canadian Capital Cities Organization (CCCO) Conference and the 2006 Parliamentary Visitor Services Association Conference. As well, VCSS staff attended the Travel Alberta Conference and the Alberta Teachers' Association Social Studies Conference. VCSS is also involved with the Edmonton branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada and assisted with the Commonwealth essay contest. The Sergeant-at-Arms provided input and advice to Westminster regarding the creation of a new African Sergeants-at-Arms association.

Managers representing HRS, ITS and FMAS attended the annual Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administrators Conference hosted by Ontario. The Director of FMAS was elected to the executive committee, and ITS representatives from Alberta facilitated a discussion on BlackBerry/PDA devices and their impact on daily operations.

FMAS provided information on Alberta's financial practices for the commission reviewing the financial environment of the Legislature of Newfoundland and Labrador and represented the Alberta Legislative Assembly Office at meetings, seminars and the annual conference of the Association for Information and Records Management (ARMA) International (Edmonton chapter and Canadian region) as well as at public sector records management gatherings.

Library Services attended conferences of the following organizations and associations: Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT), Alberta Library Conference, the Canadian Library Association (CLA), the Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL), Netspeed and the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada (APLIC) Biennial Conference in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Communications Services continued membership with the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) and attended various professional development sessions and networking events. As well, the manager of Communications Services accepted a position on the board of directors for IABC Edmonton.

Publications

Library Services completed the research, writing and editing of three historical/biographical works, and the Office of the Clerk in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer produced the final part of the four-volume centennial series commemorating 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta. Communications Services assisted with the design, layout and production of the set. By year-end all volumes were at the printer in preparation for launch in early 2007.

Together House Services and Parliamentary Counsel continued participation as the Alberta correspondents for the *Table Review*, a parliamentary publication. Parliamentary Counsel also responded to requests for information by members of the legal profession, colleagues from across Canada and the Commonwealth, students and members of the public.

Community Outreach

The LAO once again organized events and initiatives in support of the United Way. In 2006 the committee designed a wall calendar featuring breathtaking photos of the Legislature Building.

His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, delivers the Speech from the Throne during the Opening Day ceremonies of the Second Session of the 26th Legislature.

Comparative Statistics

Hansard

ASSEMBLY STATISTICS	2006	2005	2004
Hours of session	266:13	283:51	203
Hansard pages	1,844	2,044	1,424
Number of words transcribed	2,070,930	2,285,010	n/a
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES			
Meetings reported	32	41	31
Meeting hours	44:01	70:09	75
Transcript pages	364	560	582
TOTAL *HANSARD* AND COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT PAGES	2,208	2,604	2,006
TOTAL SESSION AND COMMITTEE MEETING HOURS	310:14	353:58	278
SPEECH REPRODUCTIONS			
Paper	529	412	122
Audio	35	50	n/a
USERS OF *HANSARD* DISPLAY IN VISITOR SERVICES INTERPRETIVE CENTRE			
Number of quizzes taken	461	661	371
Number of transcriptions done	476	667	380
***HANSARD* INDEX AND ONLINE INQUIRIES**	29	28	44
WEBSITE INQUIRIES	5	2	27

A tour guide and Legislature page provide information to the public touring the Legislature Building as part of Family Day festivities.

House Services

	2006 Second Session 26th Legislature	2005 First Session 26th Legislature	2004 Fourth Session 25th Legislature
SITTING DAYS (HOURS)			
Spring	42 (240)	42 (223)	43 (204)
Summer/Fall	5 (27)	11 (60)	n/a
EVENING SITTINGS (HOURS)			
Spring	28 (85)	28 (75)	29 (58)
Summer/Fall	3 (8)	8 (20)	n/a
GOVERNMENT BILLS			
Introduced	44	58	35
Received Royal Assent	42	58	35
PRIVATE BILLS			
Introduced	4	4	5
Received Royal Assent	3	4	4
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS			
Introduced	13	13	15
Received Royal Assent	1	2	3
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS			
Debated	26	26	17
Agreed to	25	25	16
Withdrawn	0	0	0
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS			
Placed on Order Paper	75	79	58
Agreed to	7	5	7
Defeated	4	6	2
Withdrawn	0	0	0
WRITTEN QUESTIONS			
Placed on Order Paper	35	45	88
Accepted	24	29	63
Rejected	11	12	11
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Removed from Order Paper	0	1	n/a

Continued next page

House Services
Continued

	2006 Second Session 26th Legislature	2005 First Session 26th Legislature	2004 Fourth Session 25th Legislature
MOTIONS FOR RETURNS			
Placed on Order Paper	36	50	213
Accepted	7	32	22
Rejected	22	17	102
Withdrawn	0	1	1
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (DAYS)			
Main Estimates	24	24	15
Supplementary	4	5	1
Interim	2	1	2
TABLINGS	737	827	379
PETITIONS PRESENTED (EXCLUDING PRIVATE BILLS)	112	115	31
RECOGNITIONS	n/a	55	155
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	267	236	84
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	6	7	4
PAGES PUBLISHED			
Journals	608	627	484
Votes and Proceedings	372	397	286
Order Paper	410	478	580

Comparative Statistics

FMAS

	2006	2005	2004
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Constituency offices, moved	2	7	10
Constituency offices, new	0	5	3
Constituency offices, closed	0	0	3
Leases processed (new or renewals)	11	30	28
Telecommunications services installed or moved	2	17	12
Telecommunications - service requests	214	190	227
Direct purchase orders issued	120	148	92
MLA purchase orders processed	5,675	5,975	5,075
Other requests processed	4,003	3,968	2,986
Special requests processed	346	370	295
Supplies orders processed - online ordering system	899	845	693
Supplies orders processed - manual	213	282	231
FINANCIAL*			
Invoices coded and data entered	17,204	15,869	16,942
Payments issued	12,057	9,982	10,686

**Note: Financial statistics are now based on the fiscal year 2006, which is April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006.*

Library Services

	2006	2005	2004
Total number of volumes in collection	424,229	413,940	402,189
Items borrowed for use outside the library	6,794	8,657	6,103
Items used on-site	6,105	5,407	8,696
Number of sessional papers added to the collection	737	827	379*
Number of requests requiring less than 15 minutes to complete	2,445	3,015	2,678
Number of requests requiring 15 minutes to one hour to complete	719	859	870
Number of requests requiring more than one hour to complete	245	303	343
MLA/LAO usage of the library's intranet site	18,618	20,943	15,211**
Number of times the online catalogue was accessed remotely	122,823	193,002	202,869
Number of interlibrary loan requests from Members and staff	845	1,258***	997***

** No fall session was held.*

*** Statistics could not be collected for part of 2004 due to a change in servers.*

**** A large proportion of the increase in MLA and staff interlibrary loan requests can be attributed to the material obtained by staff for research purposes for centennial book projects.*

Comparative Statistics

VCSS

VISITORS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND INTERPRETIVE CENTRE	2006	2005	2004
Visitors on tour	44,716	46,874	43,351
Special events	77,003	86,827	46,536
Casual	30,706	31,599	48,634
Visitors to site	160,320	176,096	147,145
TOURS AND PROGRAMS			
Regular tours	1161	2104	2075
VIP tours	46	40	29
Educational programs	489	390	422
Public Service Orientation tours	63	40	35
GALLERY SEATS RESERVED	7895	7085	n/a
TOTAL VISITORS TO THE GALLERIES	9943	11,374	8744
GIFT SHOP SALES	$ 97,919	$ 127,898	$ 98,569
MLA SALES	$ 385,500	$ 449,857	$ 238,644

Comparative Statistics

ITS	2006	2005	2004
EQUIPMENT IN PLACE			
Constituency workstations	183	181	175
Constituency printers	162	159	143
LAN workstations	269	266	250
LAN laser printers	52	50	55
Printers (not networked)	127	124	153
Servers	30	28	27
Laptop computers	225	226	217
PDAs (BlackBerry devices)[1]	96	n/a	n/a
EQUIPMENT REPLACE			
Obsolete workstations	85	60	151
Obsolete laser printers	8	21	20
Obsolete laptop computers	17	56	28
TRAINING			
Training days	91	35	59
Regular training	65	20	45
ITS staff technical training	26	15	14

[1] *PDA numbers are not available previous to 2006.*

(L. to R): Mr. Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs, Mr. Louis Warring, senior citizen winner of the What Democracy Means to Me essay contest and the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly.

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond sign the official guest book in the Legislature rotunda during a visit in celebration of 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta.

Financial Statements

AS AT MARCH 31, 2006

AUDITOR'S REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 1 – EXPENSES DETAILED BY OBJECT

SCHEDULE 2 – SALARY AND BENEFITS DISCLOSURE

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, inspects the guard.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, with the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta.

Auditor's Report

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office (the Office) as at March 31, 2006 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Fred J. Dunn

FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
June 26, 2006

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2006	2005 [Restated - Note 3(c)]
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$ 23,682,721	$ 16,880,044
Prepaid expenses	-	74,788
Accounts receivable and advances	349,582	528,253
Inventory held for resale	219,953	250,879
	$ 24,252,256	**$ 17,733,964**
Capital assets (Note 4)	1,861,261	1,694,331
	$ 26,113,517	**$ 19,428,295**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 2,021,217	$ 2,116,587
Vacation pay liability	935,712	771,448
	2,956,929	2,888,035
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	16,850,158	14,688,634
Net assets	6,306,430	1,851,626
	$ 26,113,517	**$ 19,428,295**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	2006	2005 [Restated - Note 3(c)]
Net assets (liabilities) at beginning of year	$ 1,851,626	$ (1,022,328)
Net operating results	(37,870,197)	(32,759,115)
Net transfer from general revenues	42,325,001	35,633,069
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**$ 6,306,430**	**$ 1,851,626**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly, presents the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta, with a set of medallions commemorating his service to the Legislative Assembly.

The March 15th 100 Years of Democracy dinner brought together Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly from throughout its history.

Statement of Operations

	2006		2005
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
Revenues	(Note 8)		
Gift shop sales, services and fees	$ 434,000	$ 623,105	$ 482,208
Other	-	73,235	84,467
Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure for accommodations costs provided at no charge (Note 5)	-	875,312	882,982
Transfer from Alberta Gaming Lottery Fund (Note 9)	415,000	415,000	-
	$ 849,000	**$1,986,652**	**$1,449,657**
EXPENSES			
Voted:			
Alberta Alliance Opposition Services	57,000	83,208	28,020
Financial Management and Administrative Services	800,000	800,562	672,359
Government Members' Services	2,109,000	1,848,537	2,122,925
House Services	5,878,000	5,788,147	3,554,671
Human Resource Services	834,000	828,861	742,551
Independent Members' Services	-	-	8,886
Information Technology Services	2,580,000	2,415,868	2,299,874
Legislative Committees	526,000	247,524	148,848
Legislature Library	1,791,000	1,821,119	1,908,373
MLA Administration	25,976,000	24,098,506	21,497,552
New Democrat Opposition Services	425,000	475,358	362,268
Office of the Speaker	396,000	412,451	390,699
Official Opposition Services	1,368,000	1,435,670	886,828
Public Information Branch	-	-	764,914
	$ 42,740,000	**$ 40,255,811**	**$ 35,388,768**
VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS			
Accommodation costs (Note 5)		875,312	882,982
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)		(1,199,340)	(1,126,400)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3b)		1,032,410	981,739
Provision for (reduction in) members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)		(1,374,771)	(1,865,463)
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay liability		164,264	(21,744)
Assets expensed as payments		74,788	(31,510)
Net consumption of inventory		30,926	752
Provision for doubtful accounts receivable		(2,551)	(352)
		(398,962)	(1,179,996)
		39,856,849	34,208,772
NET OPERATING RESULTS		**$ (37,870,197)**	**$ (32,759,115)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

	2006	2005 [Restated - Note 3(c)]
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Net operating results	$ (37,870,197)	$ (32,759,115)
Add noncash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,032,410	981,739
Increase (decrease) in vacation pay liability	164,264	(59,768)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expense payment	74,788	(31,510)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	178,671	(137,944)
Decrease in inventory	30,926	752
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(95,370)	736,518
Increase (decrease) in transition allowance liability	2,161,524	(2,246,476)
CASH USED BY OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	**$ (34,322,984)**	**$ (33,515,804)**
Investing transactions:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,199,340)	(1,126,400)
Financing transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	42,325,001	35,633,069
NET CASH PROVIDED	**$ 6,802,677**	**$ 990,865**
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	**$ 16,880,044**	**$ 15,889,179**
CASH, END OF YEAR	**$ 23,682,721**	**$ 16,880,044**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1

AUTHORITY

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2

PURPOSE

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Assist the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in fulfilling the duties of office.
2. Assist Members in carrying out their roles as legislators within the parliamentary system and as representatives of their constituencies.
3. Meet and exceed the service expectations of the Members.
4. Respond to increased demands for technology-related services from Members, staff and the public.
5. Provide Members with professional development opportunities and foster inter-parliamentary co-operation through participation in national and international parliamentary forums and exchange programs.
6. Increase public awareness of the Legislative Assembly within Alberta's democratic parliamentary system through information and outreach programs.
7. Continue to foster understanding of the division of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.
8. Ensure that the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) provides quality services in an increasingly competitive environment.
9. Ensure the continued development of the effectiveness and efficiency of the LAO workforce through the fostering and recognition of leadership and teamwork.
10. Develop and carry out plans for special centennial events and projects.

NOTE 3

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND REPORTING PRACTICES

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles:

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the Minister of Finance. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund, and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year on the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance. Furthermore, accommodation costs, provided by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation at no cost, are included in valuation adjustments so as to show the entire cost of the operation of the Office.

Assets

Current assets of the Office consist of cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employers and other individuals, and inventory held for resale.

The fair values of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their book values.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets, invoiced at $2,500 or greater, as follows:

Computer hardware and software	2 years
Office equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

Continued next page

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year-end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, vacation pay, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their book values.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

c) Correction of a Prior Period Error

The Office's bank accounts were established when the Office moved to their own independent financial systems (separate from the government financial system operated by the Ministry of Finance). The Office and the Provincial Treasurer agreed to include the accounts in the Province's cash management system with any interest earned on the funds payable to the Ministry of Finance's General Revenue Fund (GRF) and that the accounts be subject to the normal cash management controls. At the time that the accounts were established, and subsequently, the Office was advised that these funds were reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Province as prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Effective March 31, 2006, and following inquiries by the Office, the Ministry of Finance advised the Office that funds in the Office's bank accounts should be reported in the Office's financial statements. In prior years this was not done.

The correction of this prior period error has resulted in the financial statements being retroactively restated to include the cash balances in the Office's financial statements. The impact of the restatement is:

	AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AT MARCH 31, 2005	ADJUSTMENT	RESTATED BALANCE AT MARCH 31, 2005
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
Cash	$ 4,644	$ 16,875,400	$ 16,880,044
Net assets/(liabilities)	(15,023,774)	16,875,400	1,851,626
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)			
Opening net liabilities	(16,904,988)	15,882,660	(1,022,328)
Net operating results	(32,759,115)	-	(32,759,115)
Net transfer from GRF	34,640,329	992,740	35,633,069
Closing net assets/(liabilities)	$ (15,023,774)	$ 16,875,400	$ 1,851,626

There has been no impact on the Statement of Operations because all interest revenue earned on the funds is directed to the Ministry of Finance's General Revenue Fund as agreed by the Office and the Provincial Treasurer when the bank accounts were established. The net transfer from GRF is impacted because in prior years the GRF was increased or decreased by the changes in the Office's cash balance and reported on a net basis.

Continued next page

NOTE 4

Capital Assets

	2006			2005
	COST	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	NET BOOK VALUE	NET BOOK VALUE
Office equipment	$ 203,479	$ 148,403	$ 55,076	$ 54,729
Furniture	2,167,991	787,110	1,380,881	1,277,280
Computer hardware and software	3,217,018	2,791,714	425,304	362,322
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	**$ 5,588,488**	**$ 3,727,227**	**$ 1,861,261**	**$ 1,694,331**

NOTE 5

CONTRIBUTION FROM ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

Included in the $875,312 (2005 - $882,982) contribution from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is $100,000 for upgrades to Legislative Assembly Office furniture in the Legislature Building; $52,338 for renovations to MLA office space on the 4th floor, Legislature Annex; $15,000 for renovations to MLA offices on the 6th and 7th floors, Legislature Annex; $16,049 for furniture refurbishment of the mock Legislature facility in the Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre; and $2,350 for design costs for upgrades to the Legislature Chamber sound system.

NOTE 6

MEMBERS' TRANSITION ALLOWANCE

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended, section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9 the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months' salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989, with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

Liability as at March 31, 2005	$ 14,688,634
Total transition allowance payments as at March 31, 2006	(663,705)
Total transition allowance expense as at March 31, 2006	2,825,229
LIABILITY AS AT MARCH 31, 2006	**$ 16,850,158**
Voted expense	$ 4,200,000
Valuation adjustment	(1,374,771)
TOTAL TRANSITION ALLOWANCE EXPENSE AS AT MARCH 31, 2006	**$ 2,825,229**

Continued next page

NOTE 7

DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $725,309 for the year ended March 31, 2006 (2005 - $568,759).

At December 31, 2005, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $165,895,000 (2004 – $268,101,000), and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $187,704,000 (2004 – $450,068,000). At December 31, 2005, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a surplus of $10,018,000 (2004- $9,404,000).

The Office also participates in a multi-employer Long-term Disability Income Continuance Plan. At March 31, 2006, the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $8,309,000 (2005- $3,208,000). The expense for this plan is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8

BUDGET

EXPENSES:

2005-2006 budget [a]	$ 42,740,000
2005-2006 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 40,255,811
2005-2006 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 2,484,189

(a) Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates, released March 24, 2005.

NOTE 9

TRANSFER FROM ALBERTA GAMING LOTTERY FUND

The 2005-2006 estimates reflected a transfer of $415,000 from Alberta Gaming Lottery Fund as funding to be used by Members of the Legislative Assembly at the community level to assist in Centennial celebrations. The $415,000 is included in the MLA administration budget as a voted expense, and expenses applied against this funding are recorded under the MLA administration actuals.

On Family Day visitors enjoyed wagon rides around the Legislature grounds, ice sculptures, face painting and other carnival activities in the pedway.

Continued next page

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, a celebration of Francophone heritage.

Remembrance Day ceremonies held in the Legislature rotunda.

NOTE 10

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

EXPENSES DETAILED BY OBJECT

SCHEDULE 1
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	2006		2005
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
EXPENSES:			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$ 18,585,824	$ 14,744,101	$ 12,840,975
Supplies and services	10,436,376	12,514,230	10,056,010
Grants	7,000	450	2,150
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	13,710,800	12,997,030	12,489,633
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 42,740,000**	**$ 40,255,811**	**$ 35,388,768**

Continued next page

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

SCHEDULE 2
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
MARCH 31, 2006

	2006				2005
	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non-cash Benefits[3]	TOTAL	TOTAL
SENIOR OFFICIAL:					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly[4]	$ 173,576	$ 14,267	$ 36,316	$ 224,159	$ 195,362
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:					
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	123,820	10,023	29,797	163,640	154,385
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	116,608	9,439	29,023	155,070	151,034
Director, Information Technology and Human Resource Services	119,774	14,668	27,533	161,975	145,161
Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services	99,399	8,080	23,294	130,773	121,899
Legislature Librarian	92,131	14,878	21,934	128,943	115,331
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial & Security Services and Sergeant-at-Arms	92,044	11,133	22,443	125,620	112,159
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer	93,319	7,553	22,749	123,621	82,143
Senior Financial Officer[5]	602	-	129	731	96,337
Manager Subtotal	737,697	75,774	176,902	990,373	978,449
	$ 911,273	**$ 90,041**	**$ 213,218**	**$ 1,214,532**	**$ 1,173,811**

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses and vacation payouts.

(3) Other noncash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees, including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Automobile is provided; no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances figures.

(5) Position vacated October 2004.

"DEMOCRACY IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN YOU SEE BEYOND YOUR OWN NEEDS. I AM TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO THINK CRITICALLY AND GAIN THE AWARENESS OF OUR WORLD. I FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, TO BE ABLE TO CREATE MY OWN FUTURE, AND TO LIVE LIFE THE WAY I WANT TO."

- Jan Lisiecki, grade 6 essay contest winner, What Democracy Means to Me essay contest -

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

OVERVIEW

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of members of Commonwealth parliaments who, irrespective of race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of democracy. Canada was one of the six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Each provincial and territorial Legislative Assembly in Canada as well as the federal Parliament comprises a branch of the CPA. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are members of the Alberta branch of the CPA. "The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Conference is an exceptional forum for exchanging information and exploring new ideas. The diversity that we [parliamentarians] bring to these meetings is truly one of the important factors in the success we enjoy as federal, provincial and territorial legislators." Those are the words of the Hon. Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of Canada, delivered in his opening address at the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Conference.

President's Report

Speaker Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

I have long been a proponent of parliamentary relations, and this statement eloquently expresses views that I wholeheartedly share. I truly believe in lifelong learning, and in my experience CPA conferences have proven to be extremely informative and educational. I also know that being an active member of the CPA has indeed made me a better legislator. I can say without any equivocation that the shared experience and variety of perspectives gained at CPA conferences has helped me to find creative solutions to a variety of challenges.

The sessions at the conference were both dynamic and relevant, dealing with issues such as government accountability, the Canadian mission in Afganistan and challenges of women in Canadian politics. A highlight of the event was Alberta's own George Rogers chairing the discussion on electoral reform. This topic proved to be one of the most prevalent topics of 2006, discussed at the Canadian regional seminar as well.

Electoral reform has always been an issue of interest throughout Canadian Legislatures, and Alberta is no exception. The success of any democratic system of government hinges on public participation. As voter turnout at election time continues to decline, proper representation can come into question. The exploration of creative ways to reform the system and improve public perception will always be at the forefront.

At the 28th Canadian regional seminar, held in Victoria, British Columbia, I felt privileged to present on the topic Sharing the Wealth: The Function of Budget Surpluses. With Alberta's economy hitting a high note thanks to oil and gas revenues during a relative downturn for the rest of the Canadian economy, issues dealing with devolution of control over Alberta's natural resources have been reawakened. It was good to share with my fellow parliamentarians the Alberta perspective. Alberta's prosperity does lend strength to our entire nation.

The 52nd CPA conference, held in Abuja, Nigeria, was attended by the Chair of Committees and Member for Calgary-McCall, Mr. Shiraz Shariff. The theme was: Enhancing Standards of Democratic Governance and Public Perceptions of Parliament in the Commonwealth.

As legislators we are always evolving processes to better serve our constituents. Through membership in international organizations such as the CPA, we are able to obtain a variety of perspectives. One other organization that I recently became more acquainted with is considered a global leader in parliamentary developments, but its foundations lie within our Canadian borders. The Canadian Parliamentary Centre has been lending support to parliamentarians since 1968 as a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization devoted to improving the effectiveness of representative assemblies around the world. In 2006 I was honoured to be asked to serve a term as a member of the centre's board of directors.

By engaging in learning opportunities and exploring creative solutions on a global level, parliamentarians throughout the world are working together to solve local challenges.

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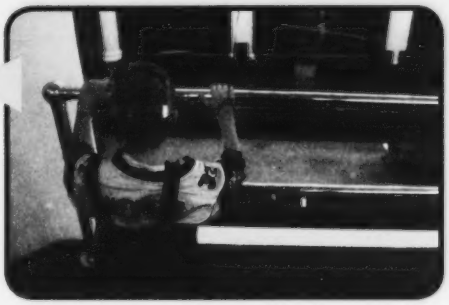
100 Years of Democracy dinner.



A great view of the public gallery was enjoyed by many during Family Day.

Secretary's Report

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

In 2006 my office co-ordinated Member attendance at 15 parliamentary conferences. The learning opportunities afforded Members at these national and international events are abundant.

At the Canadian Regional Presiding Officers' Conference held in Yellowknife from January 19 to 22, I was privileged to be a guest presenter. I drew upon Alberta's experience with the contested election results for the constituency of Edmonton-Castle Downs in the 2004 provincial general election to illustrate the complexities of determining a valid vote count.

Throughout the year the Legislative Assembly was privileged to not only attend various conferences but also to host visiting delegates as well. Being host to interparliamentary events enables our Legislative Assembly to highlight our province as well as its industry and economy and focus on issues of specific interest to visiting legislators.

From October 15 to 20 the Legislative Assembly of Alberta hosted a seven-member German delegation as part of the Partnership of Parliaments. During their visit the delegation met with the Edmonton public school board and the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta as well as toured the Stollery children's hospital.

Meetings with the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and Wellness and various other Members of the Legislative Assembly, including dinner with the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly were also part of the five-day schedule, which wrapped up with a brief tour of our beautiful province.

Since 1993 Canada has been a member of the Partnership of Parliaments, an organization dedicated to fostering transcontinental relationships among parliamentarians.

Another highlight of 2006 was the 24th Conference of the Canadian Association of Sergeants-at-Arms. This event was held from August 8 to 13 in Edmonton and Jasper.

Business sessions included discussions on the powers and issues of privilege and the Sergeant-at-Arms, information and privacy issues as they relate in the parliamentary domain, trends in terrorism, business continuity planning and engaging youth in the democratic process. The latter topic highlighted the educational and outreach programs offered through our Legislature and specifically focused on the Virtual Visit to the Alberta Legislature, an interactive, online tour developed in partnership with Alberta Education.

The conference was attended by 22 delegates from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

It was especially exciting to invite parliamentarians from across Canada to share in our celebrations while the Legislative Assembly of Alberta commemorates 100 years of democracy.

Continued next page

BURSARIES

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans. On June 1 Speaker Ken Kowalski awarded bursaries to Benjamyn McKay of Edmonton-Mill Creek from TUXIS, to Caitlin Lyster of Barrhead-Morinvile-Westlock and to Nicole Ifi of St. Albert from the Alberta Girls' Parliament.

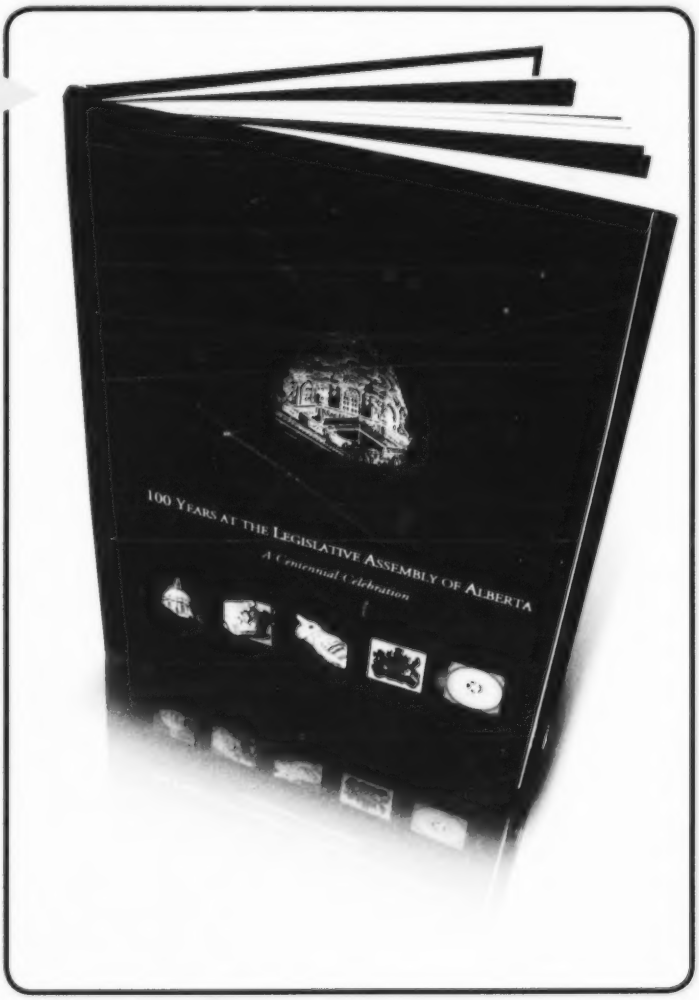
GRADE 6 ESSAY

A province-wide essay contest is held annually for grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system. This year first place was awarded to Larissa Fester of Edmonton-Mill Creek, with Lauren Bombardieri of Edmonton-Mill Woods and Dylan Podkowka of Edmonton-Calder receiving second and third places respectively.

A Centennial Celebration coffee table book was produced in Commemoration of 100 Years of Democracy. This special keepsake is now for sale in the Legislature Gift Shop for the public to enjoy.

On November 23 a Service Reunion dinner was held in honour of Legislative Assembly Office managers, Table Officers, Sergeants-at-Arms, and Legislature pages.

Above: current Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Hodgson surrounded by former and current Legislature pages.



COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
Alberta Branch

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Abbott, Tony
Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)

Ady, Cindy
Calgary-Shaw (PC)

Agnihotri, Bharat
Edmonton-Ellerslie (L)

Amery, Moe
Calgary-East (PC)

Backs, Dan
Edmonton-Manning
L (to 11/20/06),
Ind (from 11/20/06)

Blakeman, Laurie
Edmonton-Centre (L)
Official Opposition
House Leader

Bonko, Bill
Edmonton-Decore (L)

Boutilier, Hon. Guy C.
Fort McMurray-Wood
Buffalo (PC)
Minister of Environment
(to 12/15/06) Minister
of International,
Intergovernmental and
Aboriginal Relations
(from 12/15/06)

Brown, Dr. Neil, QC
Calgary-Nose Hill (PC)

Calahasen, Pearl
Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
and Northern Development
(to 12/15/06)

Cao, Wayne C.N.
Calgary-Fort (PC)

Cardinal, Hon. Mike
Athabasca-Redwater (PC)
Minister of Human
Resources and
Employment
(to 12/15/06)

Cenaiko, Hon. Harvey
Calgary-Buffalo (PC)
Solicitor General and
Minister of Public Security
(from 6/2/05 to
12/15/06)

Chase, Harry B.
Calgary-Varsity (L)

Coutts, Hon. David
Livingstone-Macleod (PC)
Minister of Sustainable
Resource Development (to
12/15/06)

Danyluk, Hon. Ray
Lac La Biche-St. Paul
(PC)
Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing
(from 12/15/06)

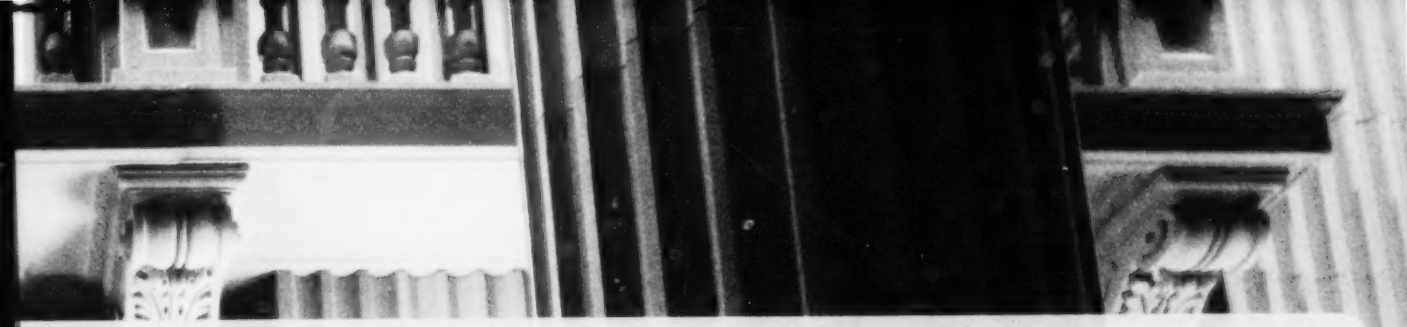
DeLong, Alana
Calgary-Bow (PC)

Doerksen, Hon. Victor P.
Red Deer-South (PC)
Minister of Innovation
and Science
(to 8/15/06)

Ducharme, Hon. Denis
Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)
Chief Government Whip
(to 4/6/06), Minister of
Community Development
(from 4/6/06 to
12/15/06)

Dunford, Hon. Clint
Lethbridge-West (PC)
Minister of Economic
Development (to
12/15/06)

Eggen, David
Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
NDP Opposition Whip



Elsalhy, Mo
Edmonton-McClung (L)

Evans, Hon. Iris
Sherwood Park (PC)
Minister of Health and Wellness (to 12/15/06)
Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry (from 12/15/06)

Flaherty, Jack
St. Albert (L)

Forsyth, Hon. Heather
Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)
Minister of Children's Services (to 12/15/06)

Fritz, Hon. Yvonne
Calgary-Cross (PC)
Minister of Seniors and Community Supports (to 12/15/06)

Goudreau, Hon. Hector G.
Dunvegan-Central Peace (PC)
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture (from 12/15/06)

Graydon, Hon. Gord
Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Minister of Gaming (to 12/15/06)

Griffiths, Doug
Battle River-Wainwright (PC)

Groeneveld, Hon. George
Highwood (PC)
Minister of Agriculture and Food
(from 12/15/06)

Haley, Carol
Airdrie-Chestermere (PC)

Hancock, Hon. Dave, QC
Edmonton-Whitemud (PC)
Minister of Advanced Education, Government House Leader (to 4/5/06)
Minister of Health and Wellness, Government House Leader
(from 12/15/06)

Herard, Hon. Denis
Calgary-Egmont (PC)
Minister of Advanced Education (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

Hinman, Paul
Cardston-Taber-Warner (AA)

Horner, Hon. Doug
Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert (PC)
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
(to 12/15/06),
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology
(from 12/15/06)

Jablonski, Mary Anne
Red Deer-North (PC)

Johnson, LeRoy
Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)

Johnston, Art
Calgary-Hays (PC)

Klein, Hon. Ralph
Calgary-Elbow (PC)
Premier, President of Executive Council
(to 12/14/06)

Knight, Hon. Mel
Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)
Deputy Government Whip (to 4/6/06), Chief Government Whip (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)
Minister of Energy
(from 12/15/06)

Kowalski, Hon. Kenneth R.
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)
Speaker

Liepert, Hon. Ron
Calgary-West (PC)
Minister of Education
(from 12/15/06)

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Alberta Branch

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Lindsay, Hon. Fred
Stony Plain (PC)
Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security (from 12/15/06)

Lougheed, Rob
Strathcona (PC)

Lukaszuk, Thomas A.
Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)

Lund, Hon. Ty
Rocky Mountain House (PC) Minister of Government Services (to 4/6/06) Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

MacDonald, Hugh
Edmonton-Gold Bar (L)

Magnus, Richard
Calgary-North Hill (PC)

Mar, Hon. Gary G., QC
Calgary-Mackay (PC)
Minister of Community Development (to 4/6/06) Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

Martin, Ray
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
NDP Opposition House Leader

Marz, Richard
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

Mason, Brian
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)
Leader of the NDP Opposition

Mather, Weslyn
Edmonton-Mill Woods (L)

McClellan, Hon. Shirley
Drumheller-Stettler (PC)
Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance (to 12/15/06)

McFarland, Hon. Barry
Little Bow (PC)
Associate Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

Melchin, Hon. Greg
Calgary-North West (PC)
Minister of Energy (to 12/15/06) Minister of Seniors and Community Supports (from 12/15/06)

Miller, Dr. Bruce
Edmonton-Glenora (L)
Official Opposition Deputy Whip

Miller, Rick
Edmonton-Rutherford (L)
Official Opposition Whip

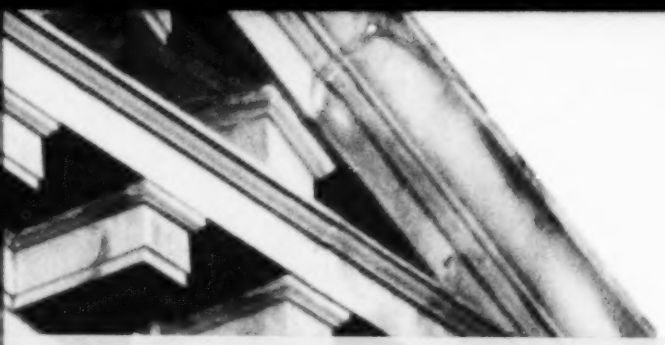
Mitzel, Len
Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)

Morton, Hon. F.L.
Foothills-Rocky View (PC)
Minister of Sustainable Resource Development (from 12/15/06)

Oberg, Hon. Lyle
Strathmore-Brooks (PC)
Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation (to 3/23/06), PC (to 3/23/06), Ind (from 3/23/06 to 7/25/06)
Minister of Finance (from 12/15/06)

Oberle, Frank
Peace River (PC)
Chief Government Whip (from 12/15/06)

Ouellette, Hon. Luke
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (PC)
Minister of Restructuring and Government Efficiency (to 12/15/06)
Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation (from 12/15/06)



Pannu, Dr. Raj
Edmonton-Strathcona
(NDP)

Pastoor, Bridget Brennan
Lethbridge-East (L)

Pham, Hung Kim
Calgary-Montrose (PC)

Prins, Ray
Lacombe-Ponoka (PC)

Renner, Hon. Rob
Medicine Hat (PC)
Minister of Municipal Affairs (to 12/15/06)
Minister of Environment (from 12/15/06) Deputy Government House Leader (from 4/6/06)

Rodney, Dave
Calgary-Lougheed (PC)

Rogers, George
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon
(PC)

Shariff, Shiraz
Calgary-McCall (PC)
Deputy Chair of Committees

Snelgrove, Hon. Lloyd
Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
President of the Treasury Board, Minister of Service Alberta (from 12/15/06)

Stelmach, Hon. Ed
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (PC)
Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (to 3/21/06)
Premier, President of Executive Council (from 12/14/06)

Stevens, Hon. Ron, QC
Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Deputy Government House Leader

Strang, Ivan
West Yellowhead (PC)
Deputy Government Whip (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

Swann, Dr. David
Calgary-Mountain View (L)

Taft, Dr. Kevin
Edmonton-Riverview (L)
Leader of the Official Opposition

Tarchuk, Hon. Janis
Banff-Cochrane (PC)
Minister of Children's Services (from 12/15/06)

Taylor, Dave
Calgary-Currie (L)
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition

Tougas, Maurice
Edmonton-Meadowlark (L)

VanderBurg, Hon. George
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (PC)
Minister of Government Services (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

Webber, Len
Calgary-Foothills (PC)
Deputy Government Whip (from 12/15/06)

Zwozdesky, Hon. Gene
Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC)
Minister of Education (to 12/15/06) Deputy Government House Leader (to 4/6/06) Government House Leader (from 4/6/06 to 12/15/06)

In honour of 100 Years of Democracy on March 15 former and current Members posed for a group photo which included His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and current table officers of the Assembly.

Special guests gathered at Government House to welcome Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

CANADIAN REGIONAL PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

January 19-22, 2006

Delegates

Richard Marz – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills
Shiraz Shariff – MLA, Calgary-McCall

Agenda:

- Opening remarks by Hon. Paul Delorey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.
- An Introduction to Consensus Government
- Providing a Parliamentary Dimension to the Work of the United Nations
- Judicial Recounts: "Does 'X' really mark the spot?"
- Managing with the New Civility in B.C.'s Legislative Assembly
- Presentation by Diane Leblanc, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Quebec
- Challenging the Chair, presented by Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
- Northern Experiences – ice-fishing, dog sledding, aurora viewing

Report by Richard Marz

The conference was hosted by N.W.T. Speaker Hon. Paul Delorey, who did an outstanding job and made us all welcome in the beautiful Legislature Building of the N.W.T.

On the first day of the conference delegates had the option of touring the Diavik diamond mine, which was very educational despite the -44° wind chill. We were advised that Canada will soon become the world's second largest producer of diamonds. An open reception hosted by Hon. Paul Delorey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the N.W.T., was held later that day.

January 20: the session opened with an orientation to consensus government in the N.W.T. and was chaired by Hon. Bev Harrison, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick.

The next session, presented by Gary O'Brien, Deputy Clerk, Senate of Canada, was providing a parliamentary discussion of the work of the United Nations and the declaration of the world conference of Speakers.

This was followed by a presentation by David McNeil, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, dealing with contested elections. Alberta's experience in the constituency of Edmonton-Castle Downs was used as an example of how complex counting of votes can become.

The final session of the day, presented by Craig James, Clerk of Committees and Clerk Assistant in British Columbia, dealt with managing parliament with civility. As all delegates seemed eager to participate by sharing examples of situations they encountered, this particular session was a great learning experience.

January 21: presentation by Diane Leblanc, Deputy Speaker of Quebec, on the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation, which is dedicated to education of students on the parliamentary process in Quebec. This was followed by "Challenging the Chair," presented by Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of N.W.T. This was another session of sharing experiences from across Canada of various situations when the chair's rulings are challenged and the process in dealing with these challenges.

I found the conference to be a tremendous learning experience in my first year as a presiding officer and was able to meet and share experiences with so many of my counterparts throughout the nation.

Report by Shiraz Shariff

1. An Introduction to Consensus Government. Presentation by Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the North west Territories. Consensus government is a mixture of Westminster-style parliamentary democracy and traditional aboriginal decision-making style. It is a system that has no political parties, and the government vision is developed by all members of the caucus.

2. Providing a Parliamentary Dimension to the Work of the United Nations: the Declaration of the World Conference of Speakers. Presented by Gary O'Brien, Deputy Clerk, Senate of Canada. The presentation focused on the September 2005 Summit of Heads of State at the United Nations General Assembly's discussion on the influence of parliamentary diplomacy and interparliamentary co-operation; how parliaments can be of assistance in making United Nations reform effective; what new partnerships should there be between parliaments and the United Nations. The presentation also touched on the potential impact on the role of the Canadian Parliament in the conduct of foreign policy.

3. Judicial Recount: "Does 'X' really mark the spot?"

Dr. McNeil's presentation dealt with the judicial recount in the Edmonton-Castle

Continued next page

Downs riding in the November 22, 2004, election. Of importance was the impact of recount on when someone becomes a Member who should be sworn in, who should be invited to participate in a Member's orientation, who is entitled to operate constituency offices, how the budget of a caucus is affected and what entitlements accrue to the successful candidate in the interim period.

4. Managing with the New Civility in B.C.'s Legislative Assembly.

Presented by Craig James, Clerk Assistant of the Legislative Assembly in B.C. The B.C. government undertook "civility" reforms that impact electoral systems and the role of elected officials and parties to improve citizens' engagement.

5. Presentation by Diane Leblanc, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Quebec. The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation was created to increase citizens' knowledge of political and parliamentary institutions and promote democracy.

6. Challenging the Chair: presented by Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of N.W.T. The presentation dealt with the avenues of appeal and challenges open to Members when they felt the chair had erred in interpreting rules or rendered decisions based on partisan or personal interests.

55TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR, WESTMINSTER, UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

London

March 6 - 17, 2006

Delegate

LeRoy Johnson - MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Agenda:

The conference aim was to provide a forum at Westminster to discuss comparative parliamentary procedures and best practices in Commonwealth Legislatures.

- The CPA – What Is It?
- The Parliamentary Scene at Westminster
- The Political Scene at Westminster
- The Role of Think Tanks in Influencing Government
- The Need to Integrate Disaster Prevention Policies
- Parliamentary Question and Motions
- Speaker's Role in Parliament
- Party Discipline and Communication between Parties
- Role of the Leader of the House
- A New Member's view of Westminster
- Parliament, Government and the Media
- The Legislative Process
- The U.K. and the Commonwealth
- Delegates Exchange Views

Report by: LeRoy Johnson

The conference was billed as "an intensive period of study," and it was!

The 36 delegates participated very well in the session, and the leaders were all very experienced in the British parliamentary tradition. It was a pleasure to participate in discussions. There was much to observe and learn from listening to so many with so many different backgrounds and experiences. We can learn so much from each other.

PRÉSIDENTS, ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

March 21 - 24, 2006

Augusta, Maine

Delegate

Hector Goudreau - MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace

Agenda:

- Arrival and Registration
- Meeting in hotel lobby and departure for State House
- Events in Members' Chamber
- Conference on Francophonie in North America
- Meeting of section presidents, America Region, of the APF
- Reception and closing dinner hosted by America Region and Maine section

Report by: Hector Goudreau

March 21: Welcome reception of all delegates hosted by Mr. Rosaire Paradis, President of the Maine section.

March 22: Meetings with State and Senate representatives and introductions in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Resolutions were passed proclaiming March 22 as Franco-American Day as well as that day to be celebrated annually to commemorate the history of the French people in the State of Maine and the U.S.

The afternoon was spent discussing the 2008 anniversary celebrations and plans to commemorate the arrival and discoveries of Champlain 400 years ago. The evening was spent meeting with a few hundred individuals in Lewiston where we exchanged ideas on challenges our communities face in a minority language situation.

March 23: this day was dedicated to the formal business of our American section of the APF.

Continued next page

CENTRE FOR LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE

Washington, D.C., and Annapolis, Maryland

March 28-30, 2006

Delegate

Fred Lindsay – MLA, Stony Plain

Agenda:

- State Legislature. The Maryland Legislative Process
- View Legislative Session
- Tour Historic Rooms and Chambers of Maryland State House
- Meet with Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
- Discussion on Environmental Issues in the Maryland General Assembly
- Attend Committee Hearing in Environmental Matters Committee
- Attend Committee Hearing in Finance Committee

Report by Fred Lindsay

March 27: tour of major Washington sites

March 28: visit to the Canadian Embassy and an overview of Canada/U.S.A. relations with the emphasis on energy and the environment. To end the day, we met with Murray Smith, who gave us an overview of his role in Washington and a snapshot of the energy scene in Alberta.

March 29: presentation regarding several views and perspectives on China's increasing demand for fossil fuels. The theme was "Competition or Co-operation." It was stressed that China's manufacturing sector is the least efficient in the world and that we should be assisting them to be energy efficient to protect our global interests in protecting the environment. To finish the day, we met with Congressman Ralph Hall from Texas.

March 30: visited the State Legislature in Annapolis, Maryland. We received an overview of their legislative process and were escorted to the visitors' gallery to observe their House of Representatives and Senate in session and attended a committee hearing on electrical deregulation.

I found the trip to be very worth while and informative. Overall, the magnitude of government in Washington was impressive. We had good discussions on governance and global energy and environmental opportunities.

RE-ENERGIZE SUMMIT ON RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

Victoria, B.C.

May 8 and 9, 2006

Delegates

Doug Griffiths - MLA, Battle River-Wainwright

Art Johnston - MLA, Calgary-Hays

Agenda:

- Opening Keynote Speaker: Setting the Foundation
- Finding the Political Champions: How Are Political Leaders Using Information on Performance?
- Enhancing Accountability in Social Sectors: Building from the Learnings in the Alberta Education System
- Interjurisdictional experiences
- Alignment of Public Accountability with Organizational Planning and Reporting: Can we achieve the "line of sight"?
- Governance: Adopting a Results-Oriented Approach to Governance of Agencies and Boards
- Looking through the Letter Box: Client Service and Employee Measures
- Building and Maintaining a Culture that Supports a Results-Oriented Government
- Experiences in the Use of Performance-based Agreements and Relationships with Regional Authorities
- Considering the Role of Assurance: What is the Role of Assurance in Advancing Results-oriented Government?
- Looking to the Future

Report by: Doug Griffiths and Art Johnston

Speakers were from across Canada as well as New South Wales. We identified with the first day's agenda as we listened to various speakers regarding the origins of accountability. In the morning Mr. Fred Dunn, Auditor General for Alberta, joined in a presentation about the political champions of the use of annual reports and annual performance measures. We both noticed the significance in the similarities between our presentation and that of the chair of Public Accounts in Quebec. Many of our political counterparts shared similar experiences and ideas throughout the first day.

The second day was more appropriately directed at managers and bureaucrats as the focus was on management of reporting systems and co-operation across systems. But it gave us a meaningful insight into the impact, effect and usefulness of performance measures to managers and bureaucrats. It was very interesting to get their perspective.

At this time the government of Alberta is in the process of expanding the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee, and we are setting up meetings of government boards and agencies beyond the time when the

Continued next page

House is sitting. This enhances the accountability process and will allow us to interview and make agencies, boards and commissions more accountable.

We firmly believe that these sessions improve the effectiveness of Public Accounts members and the body in its entirety. We anticipate continued improvement in the effectiveness of the Public Accounts Committee with Members' continued participation in these events.

Thank you for the opportunity, and we eagerly await the next opportunity to continue professional development opportunities. Our effectiveness is dependent on the skills and knowledge acquired at these meetings and will help to facilitate effectiveness and efficiency in our tasks.

44TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Gatineau, Quebec

July 8 - 14, 2006

Delegates

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

George Rogers – MLA, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

Ray Danyluk – MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul

Mary Anne Jablonski – MLA, Red Deer-North

Agenda:

- Electoral reform
- Canada/U.S. Border Identification: the Issues
- The Communications Plan for the Quebec National Assembly
- Challenges of Women in Canadian politics
- Politics and Family Balance
- Privacy in the Age of technology
- The Role of Canadians in the Afghan Conflict
- Making Government Accountable

Report by George Rogers

The conference was well attended by representatives from all provinces and territories as well as the federal government. The presentations were very informative, and there were a number of lively exchanges in the question and answer periods. Members of our delegation took the opportunity to give many positive examples of the great strides being made in Alberta in many of these areas. I was honoured to chair the session on electoral reform. While the business sessions provided great value, the informal networking sessions provided even greater value, where these "one-on-one" exchanges afford participants the opportunity to share perspectives and experiences from our own provinces.

I am very pleased to have had this experience, and I would encourage other Members to take advantage of this forum in the future.

Report by Ray Danyluk

The conference was a very interesting and exciting mix of parliamentarians from across the country, and it was my pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate. Many interesting themes were discussed throughout the conference.

This was an excellent occasion to meet and share ideas with other legislators across the country.

Report by Mary Anne Jablonski

The annual meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians was held on July 8 and 9.

Four sessions of Transition and Balance were held on Sunday with several presentations.

On July 10 to 14 the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Canadian Regional Conference, took place. Eight business sessions included presentations and discussions on Electoral Reform, Canada/U.S. border identification, Communications Plan of the Quebec National Assembly, and Women in Politics.

On July 12 representatives of CWP presented discussions on the theme "Challenges of Women in Canadian Politics: Responsibilities of Political Parties, Legislators and the Public." These were all very informative presentations. It was agreed with the majority of members that it is important to increase the number of women in politics.

This conference was very well attended by representatives from all over Canada, who participated in lively and interesting discussions.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Nashville, Tennessee

August 15 - 18, 2006

Delegates

Lloyd Snelgrove - MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster

Richard Marz - MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

George Groeneveld - MLA, Highwood

Bev Alenius - Executive Assistant to the Speaker

Agenda:

- Global Migration: Brain Drain and Brain Gain
- Roundtable Discussions: Public Accounts Committees, Oversight & Evaluation

Continued next page

- The Global Edge: Economic Success in a Competitive World
- An Economist's View of the World
- Regional Water Extremes
- Energy Efficiency and the Electronics Industry
- Innovations in Health Information Technology
- Emerging Perspectives on Feminine and Masculine Leadership Styles
- States Engage on Trade
- Agriculture & Rural Development – Healthy Food choices
- Millennium Challenge Goals
- Technology and the Policy-making Process
- Finding the Funding for Rural Development
- An Ever-changing Climate
- Memory Skills for Public Officials

Report by: Richard Marz, Lloyd Snelgrove and George Groeneveld

The central theme for state policy-makers during the conference was "global competition." Building a strong and lasting local economy were questions that continued to arise out of the many sessions attended. The Government of Canada hosted a social evening in which the Alberta delegates participated and took the opportunity to network with delegates and customers from the business community to inform them of all the great opportunities that exist in our province.

The meetings were energizing and inspirational as we look to the future of this province, this nation.

We would like to thank the Speaker for the opportunity to attend and participate in this very positive conference, allowing provincial legislators to meet with state legislators, bringing together shared ideas for solving the challenges we each face in our own Legislatures.

CANADIAN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Victoria, B.C.

October 12-15, 2006

Delegates

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker
Wayne Cao - MLA, Calgary-Fort
Len Mitzel - MLA,
Cypress-Medicine Hat

Agenda:

- Welcoming reception
- Sustainable Aquaculture in Canada
- Sharing the Wealth: the Function of Budget Surpluses
- The Government as Foster Parent: What's Going Right, What's Going Wrong
- Electoral Reform: an Update
- Protecting our Borders: the Experience of Canadian Forces Maritime Command

Report by Len Mitzel

1. Public Communications Plan

The National Assembly of Quebec recognized a need to try to make the people of Quebec more informed about their provincial government. The Speaker went to schools all over the province to encourage young people to become more involved in democracy.

2. Sharing the Wealth

Speaker Kowalski gave a background regarding the formation of Alberta as a province and some facts regarding the devolution of control of natural resources to Alberta and Saskatchewan some 26 years later. He then spoke of the federal concept of "share the wealth" in 1981 with the national energy program (NEP). The Speaker then outlined five sources of energy revenue. He also spoke to the present financial picture between Alberta and the federal government, where much more is sent to Ottawa than returns in federal benefits and services. A point was made that it is important to hope that Canadian Confederation will recognize and tolerate that a successful Alberta is good for Canada.

3. Electoral Reform Presenter from British Columbia.

Legislatures are struggling to try to find ways to improve voters' options and engage them and help them understand the conduct of government. Effective representation is the goal, but permitting wide deviations from the norm or exceeding the limits of the deviation certainly erodes the principles of effective and equal representation. The idea of fixed dates for elections was discussed. Electoral systems reform was discussed, with the comment that most jurisdictions are considering electoral system change that would be more proportional. The final comment was that governments have to engage the public and bring them into the passion of politics and the importance of open debate about issues and values.

4. The Government as Foster Parents

The presenter outlined that there are approximately 9,200 children in care in British Columbia, with over half of these either Métis or aboriginal children. The presenter admitted that the experience of these children is not very good as most of these children rely on social assistance when they become adults.

One of the areas suggested for improvement is from the federal side. Not enough money is provided to address prevention services or kinship-based care.

Continued next page

Thank you for the opportunity to attend and learn from this seminar.

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS LAWS (COGEL)

New Orleans, Louisiana

December 3 - 6, 2006

Delegate

Dr. Raj Pannu – MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona

Agenda

- Electronic Filing
- Model Law Subcommittees Workshops
- Ethics Update
- Auditing Techniques in Campaign Finance
- Regulating the Regulated: Friend or Foe?
- Electronic Government Services and the Internet: Election Reform Update
- Lobbying Update
- BCRA's Application to States
- Negotiating Skills
- FOI – Doing the Legislative Two-step – Dealing with the Twists and Turns of a Legislative Session.
- Electronic Filing Update
- FOI – The Internationalization of Information: governments swap information but don't release it to others
- Voter Outreach: Sales and Marketing or Administration and Education?
- Elections in Foreign Venues – Iraq
- Campaign Finance updates
- Let the Good Bills Roll: Tips from the Pros
- Training – Developing Public Education Programs
- Higher Education Ethics
- Commissioners' Roundtable: Learning to Lead
- FOI Legislation/Litigation update
- Current Trends in Gift Legislation
- Developments in Public Financing of Election Campaigns
- Sharing COGEL Expertise with the International Community
- Pay to Play – What Does It Mean?
- Government Accountability
- Coping with Katrina: Managing a Disaster
- COGEL and Agency Website Development
- The Anatomy of Ethics Reform in New Jersey
- Fostering Broad-based Support for Your Agency's Mission
- Electronic Voting and the Experience

Report by Dr. Raj Pannu

Dr. Raj Pannu, MLA and member of the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, as well as Karen Sawchuk, Committee Clerk, attended the 2006 Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, from December 3 to 6, 2006.

The conference program covered election and campaign finance issues ongoing in the United States, Canada, and other jurisdictions, as well as ethics and information access and protection of privacy issues. The emphasis in this year's program was elections, and Alberta was well represented by its Chief Electoral Officer and senior staff from that office.

The keynote speakers for this conference were Mayor C. Ray Nagin, city of New Orleans; Mitchell W. Pearlman, executive director emeritus, Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission; Dr. Hussein Hindawi, chairman of the Iraqi Election Commission; Jeff Fischer, chief of elections for Iraq; and Paula Franzese, Peter W. Rodino professor of law, Seton Hall Law School, New Jersey.

COGEL is an international organization whose primary membership originates in the United States and Canada. Delegates and session participants at the 2006 conference were from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Britain, Wales and Iraq. Canadian jurisdictions were well represented, and presenters, moderators and panelists included representatives from both federal and provincial-level elections, information and privacy, and ethics offices. The 2007 conference will be returning to Canada for the first time since it was held in Ottawa in 2002. It will be held in Victoria, British Columbia, in September 2007.

Delegates also attended the COGEL annual awards banquet on the final evening of the conference, at which time the annual COGEL Award, presented in recognition of significant, demonstrable and positive contributions to the fields of campaign finance, elections, ethics, freedom of information or lobbying, was presented.

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COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ABUJA, NIGERIA

September 1 - 10, 2006

Delegate

Shiraz Shariff - MLA, Calgary-McCall

Report by Shiraz Shariff

Six workshops were held during the conference.

1. Strategies in Care and Support of HIV/AIDS Orphans and other Vulnerable Children.

There was consensus that parliamentarians and parliaments have a vital role in the care and support of HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. It was agreed that parliamentarians have a role as advocates to promote awareness and as legislators to ensure strategies for care and support of orphans and to provide oversight and scrutiny of service providing agencies.

2. Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence, child abuse and abduction were perceived to be a universal phenomenon requiring more firm legislation in place. The workshop expressed a need to reconstitute a better society promoting economic independence of women through education as well as having women and children understand their rights.

3. Transnational Security Threats.

Unregulated migration and cross-border controls has become a concern for many countries since 9/11. A number of examples were cited from various countries' experiences.

4. Climate Change and Desertification.

The workshop dealt with the challenges of climate change, particularly its impact on cold climate areas and low-lying countries.

5. The Role of Parliament in Constitutional Reform.

Parliaments are seen to play an influential role in constitutional reform.

The role of parliaments in constitutional reform also depends upon the reason for reform.

6. The Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting Good Governance through Fiscal Transparency.

The need for good governance was articulated. It was felt parliamentarians' active involvement in ensuring transparent and accountable government institutions benefited their citizens.

Dr. William Shija of Tanzania was elected as the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He assumed office as of January 1, 2007. The Association also agreed to meet in India for the 2008 CPA conference.

49TH CANADIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ottawa, Ontario

July 13, 2006

Hon. Ken Kowalski

Agenda:

- Adoption of draft agenda and approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 21 and 22
- Financial matters
- Regional representative and stand-by branch 2006-07
- Membership of the Steering Committee of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- Regional Executive Committee
- Canadian Parliamentary Review
- Centre for Legislative Exchange
- Delegation Secretaries – 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- Verbal Report on the Executive Committee Mid-year Meeting in Isle of Man
- Review of CPA's Accounting, Financial Management and Internal Control systems.
- 20th Commonwealth parliamentary seminar 2008

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION (PNWER)

Edmonton, Alberta

July 26-30, 2006

Delegates:

Tony Abbott – MLA, Drayton Valley-Calmar
Bharat Agnihotri – MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie
Dan Backs – MLA, Edmonton-Manning
Bill Bonko – MLA, Edmonton-Decore
Wayne Cao – MLA, Calgary-Fort
Harry Chase – MLA, Calgary-Varsity
Hon. David Coutts – Minister, Sustainable Resource Development
Ray Danyluk – MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul
Alana DeLong – MLA, Calgary-Bow
Hon. Clint Dunford – Minister, Economic Development
Dave Eggen – MLA, Edmonton-Calder
Hon. Iris Evans – Minister, Health and Wellness
Jack Flaherty – MLA, St. Albert
Hector Goudreau – MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace
Doug Griffiths – MLA, Battle River-Wainwright
George Groeneveld – MLA, Highwood
LeRoy Johnson – MLA, Wetaskiwin-Camrose
Art Johnston – MLA, Calgary-Hays
Mel Knight – MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky

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Fred Lindsay – MLA, Stony Plain
Thomas Lukaszuk – MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs
Hon. Ty Lund – Minister, Infrastructure and Transportation
Hugh MacDonald – MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar
Hon. Gary Mar – Minister, International and Intergovernmental Relations
Richard Marz – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills
Hon. Barry McFarland – Associate Minister, Infrastructure and Transportation
Rick Miller – MLA, Edmonton-Rutherford
Dr. Bruce Miller – MLA, Edmonton-Glenora
Frank Oberle – MLA, Peace River
Bridget Pastoor – MLA, Lethbridge-East
Ray Prins – MLA, Lacombe-Ponoka
Hon. Rob Renner – Minister, Municipal Affairs
George Rogers – MLA, Leduc-Beaumont-Devon
Lloyd Snelgrove – MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster
David Swann – MLA, Calgary-Mountain View
Dr. Kevin Taft – MLA, Edmonton-Riverview

Agenda:

Welcome reception with remarks by Gary Mar, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Alberta

July 17

- Border Issues
- Energy
- Sustainable Development/Invasive Species/Forestry
- Luncheon Keynote Address – Hon. Ralph Klein
- Energy II – (Emerging Technologies)
- Health Care
- Tourism
- Water Policy
- China Energy Round-table
- Evening Welcome Reception with Mayor Stephen Mandel

July 18

- Agriculture
- Energy/Workforce Development Joint Session
- Homeland Security/Pandemic
- Trade and Economic Development
- Agriculture Tour: Highland Feeders' Integrated Manure Utilization System
- Energy – Transmission and HVDC Symposium
- Transportation
- Homeland Security Policy Tour: Alberta Emergency Management Operations Centre – Edmonton
- Agriculture: Food Safety Tour
- Energy – Bi – National Regional Energy Planning Initiative
- Environment
- High Tech

July 19

- Energy Policy Tour: EPCOR Clean Coal Plant
- Telecommunications
- Workforce Development II

REGIONAL ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Toronto, Ontario

August 23-27, 2006

Hector Goudreau - MLA, Dunvegan–Central Peace

Agenda:

August 23 – Registration

August 24 – Section Presidents' meeting

- Visit Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake

August 25 – Guided tour of the Legislative Assembly Building

- Official opening of the XXIII Conference of the Americas Region of APF

August 26

- Session 1: Cultural diversity
- Session 2: Linguistic duality and the possibility of court action

August 26

- Session 3: The Survival of Francophone Communities outside of Quebec in a North American Context

Report by Hector Goudreau:

The first business session dealt with cultural diversity and linguistic duality. Following discussion, the delegates adopted a resolution urging states and governments to avoid entering into commercial undertakings that would be in violation of the principles and objectives of the UNESCO convention regarding protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. A resolution was also agreed to on the importance of French in international organizations called on to play a role in the Middle East.

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The second business session dealt with linguistic duality and the possibility of court action.

A third business session, themed "The Survival of Francophone Communities Outside of Quebec in a North American Context", heard discussions on the necessity for Francophones living in a minority situation to mobilize in order to be included in the decision-making process.

I sincerely appreciate the Speaker's support and encouragement in the area of the APF and providing me with the opportunity to attend its meetings.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (CCPAC) AND CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITORS (CCOLA)

Charlottetown, P.E.I.

September 10 - 12, 2006

Delegates

Fred Lindsay - MLA, Stony Plain

Doug Griffiths - MLA, Battle River-Wainwright

Janis Tarchuk - MLA, Banff-Cochrane

Ivan Strang - MLA, West Yellowhead

Corinne Dacyshyn - Public Accounts Committee Clerk

Agenda:

- The John J. Kelly Forum (joint session with CCOLA delegates): Maximizing the Effectiveness of Public Accounts Committees
- Reports from Jurisdictions
- Warranting of Cabinet Documents in Nova Scotia
- The Changing Role of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts in British Columbia
- Reports from Jurisdictions

The Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference was attended by parliamentarians, researchers and committee clerks from across Canada and the Canadian House of Commons. This conference is held at the same time as the Annual Conference of the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors, and the two groups share one joint business session and all networking activities.

Report submitted by Fred Lindsay, Doug Griffiths, Janis Tarchuk, Ivan Strang, Corinne Dacyshyn

Following introductory remarks by Michael Eastman, executive director of the Canadian Comprehensive Auditing Foundation (CCAF), was an overview of CCAF research on effectiveness of public accounts committees, facilitated by a panel discussion.

A number of representatives from the provinces and territories joined in the discussion, and you could certainly see the number of differences in the ways that reviews of public accounts are conducted. The biggest variances seem to lie in the kinds of issues each committee is mandated to review, the number of Members sitting on public accounts committees, and the number of committees which meet outside of legislative sessions.

The group reviewed a "Self-Assessment Guide for Public Accounts Committees", prepared by CCAF.

We thought this was a very effective conference from the point of view of learning:

- how different provinces ensure government accountability by reviewing the public accounts and
- how public accounts committees relate to their Auditor General and address/ follow up on issues raised in their Auditors' reports.

We feel that we cannot get away from the partisan review that we have in our system but think it is important for us to move forward. We appreciated the opportunity to attend this worthwhile conference.

STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION (SLLF) – NATIONAL SPEAKERS CONFERENCE

Birmingham, Alabama

September 13 - 17, 2006

Hon. Ken Kowalski

A group photo of the participants of the Service Reunion dinner.

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME TO SHARE 100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY WITH THE CITIZENS OF ALBERTA AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS."

- Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta -

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex during his visit to Alberta.

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2006 they hosted and/or met with the following visitors or attended the following events.

Mr. Michael Fine
Consul General of Canada from Denver
February 1, 2006

His Excellency Karel Petrus Maria de Beer
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
February 8, 2006

Mr. Joop Corijn
Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
February 8, 2006

His Excellency Dr. Musaed Rashed Al-Haroun
Ambassador of Kuwait
March 6, 2006

Mr. Hans-Michael Schwandt
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany
March 8, 2006

Bavarian Education Mission to Alberta
March 17, 2006

Mr. Luc Serot Alméras
Consul General of France in Vancouver
March 21, 2006

His Excellency Eduardo J. Tejera
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic
April 24, 2006

Mr. Glenn Anderson
President
Pacific Northwest Economic Region and delegation
April 24, 2006

Mrs. Esmeralda Agbulos,
Honorary Consul of the Philippines

Honourable Edgardo Angara,
Senator of the Philippines
April 25, 2006

Her Excellency Vesela Mrden Korac
Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia
April 26, 2006

Delegation of Senators from France

Senator Claude Saunier,
Côtes-d'Armor, Vice President and Head of Mission

Senator Michel Guerry,
Representing the French living abroad

Senator Joseph Kergueris and Mrs. Kergueris

Senator Yannick Texier,
Matthieu Meissonnier, Administration of the Senate

Mr. Luc Serot Alméras,
Consul General of Vancouver

Senator Dr. Claudette Tardif,
Co-chair of the France-Canada Interparliamentary group
April 26, 2006

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, Governor General of Canada, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond, CC
May 4, 2006

His Excellency Sung-joon Yim
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea
May 15, 2006

Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex
June 6, 2006

Mr. Naim Ahmed
Consul General of the United States
June 7, 2006

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Interparliamentary Relations
Continued

Delegation

State Duma of the Yamal-Nenets
Autonomous Okrug
June 19, 2006

Ministerial Delegation

Mpumalanga,
South Africa
July 25, 2006

Hon. Myron Kowalsky,
Speaker and Parliamentarian Delegation
Saskatchewan Legislature
August 17, 2006

His Excellency Matthias Martin Höpfner
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
September 14, 2006

German Delegation

Partnership of Parliaments

The Hon. Rolf Seel, MdL,
Christian Democratic Union, North Rhine-Westphalia (Vice President of PoP and Head of Delegation)

The Hon. Herbert Ettengruber,
MdL, Christian Social Union,
Free State of Bavaria

The Hon. Johannes Gerlach, MdL,
Social Democratic Party, Free State of Saxony

Mrs. Petra Loeschke,
Business Representative, PC-Ware AG,
Free State of Saxony

The Hon. Friedrich Poertner, MdL,
Christian Democratic Union, Lower Saxony

The Hon. Sabine Waschke, MdL,
Social Democratic Party, Hesse

The Hon. Alwin Ziel, MdL,
Social Democratic Party, Brandenburg
(former minister of the interior in his state)
October 15-20, 2006

Mr. Song Xizhu
Consul General of China
October 16, 2006

Mr. Hans Hubert Driesser
Consul General of Netherlands
October 17, 2006

Mr. Thomas Huffaker
Consul General of the United States
October 19, 2006

Hon. Harvey Hodder
Speaker of Newfoundland
October 19, 2006

His Excellency Tor Naess
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway
November 6, 2006

Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Information Technology & Human Resource Services, welcomes the constituency office staff to the annual constituency seminar, which was held in the Chamber for the first time.

On November 30, 2006, the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, unveiled a stained glass window celebrating 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta and marking 100 years for the Legislature Library.

L to R: The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly; Valerie Footz, Manager of Library Operations; Christina Liggins, Serials Librarian; Sandra Perry, Legislature Librarian; and Dr. David McNeil, Clerk of the Assembly.

". . . I HAVE LIVED MY ENTIRE LIFE TREATING PEOPLE AS EQUALS, LIVING IN OUR GREAT DEMOCRACY. AND I AM PLEASED TO STATE THAT THIS TREATMENT OF OTHERS HAS BEEN REPAID TENFOLD. I HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH RESPECT, MY DIGNITY HAS NOT BEEN THWARTED AND MY QUALITY OF LIFE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT BECAUSE OF THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO RUN CANADA AND OUR GREAT PROVINCE OF ALBERTA."

- Louis Warring, senior essay contest winner, What Democracy Means to Me essay contest -

c e l e b r a t e !

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

Former Members of the Assembly

Edward William Ewasiuk

September 24, 1933 - April 14, 2006

Mr. Ewasiuk was first elected on May 8, 1986, to represent the constituency of Edmonton Beverly for the New Democratic Party and served until June 15, 1993.

During his term of office Mr. Ewasiuk served on the select standing committees on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act; Law and Regulations; Private Bills; Public Accounts; and Public Affairs.

Frederick Charles Colborne

November 14, 1916 - April 19, 2006

Mr. Colborne was first elected to the Legislature by the servicemen's vote on August 8, 1944, and served until August 17, 1948. He was re-elected on August 17, 1948, and served until July 22, 1971.

During his years of service he represented the air force servicemen as well as the constituencies of Calgary and Calgary Centre for the governing Social Credit Party.

Mr. Colborne served as minister without portfolio from August 2, 1955, to November 29, 1962; as Minister of Public Works from November 30, 1962 to May 26, 1969; and Minister of Municipal Affairs from May 27, 1969, to September 9, 1971.

Mr. Colborne also served on the select standing committees on Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education; Municipal Law; Municipal Law and Law Amendments; Private Bills; Privileges and Elections; Public Accounts; Public Affairs; Agriculture and Education; and Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

Mr. Colborne served on the special committees on Education Assistance for Dependents of Deceased and Disabled Ex-Service Men; Electoral Boundaries; Hutterite Colonies; Redistribution/Redistribution Procedure; Rules, Orders and Forms of Procedure; and Workers' Compensation.

Roy Alexander Farran

January 2, 1921 - June 2, 2006

Mr. Farran was first elected on August 30, 1971, to represent the constituency of Calgary-North Hill for the Progressive Conservative Party and served until March 22, 1979.

During his term of office Mr. Farran served as Minister of Telephones and Utilities (March 6, 1973 - April 2, 1975) and Solicitor General (April 3, 1975 - March 22, 1979).

Mr. Farran also served on the standing committees on Public Accounts; Private Bills; Standing Orders and Printing; Law, Law Amendments and Regulations; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education.

Randolph McKinnon

July 22, 1917 - June 10, 2006

Mr. McKinnon was first elected on June 18, 1959, to represent the constituency of Strathcona-West for the Social Credit Party and served until May 23, 1967.

During his term of office Mr. McKinnon served as Minister of Education (July 31, 1964 - June 28, 1967) as well as on the following standing committees: Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education; Private Bills, Standing Orders and Printing; Public Accounts; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

Arthur Joseph Soetaert

April 14, 1913 - September 14, 2006

Mr. Soetaert was elected on June 29, 1955, to represent the constituency of St. Albert for the Liberal Party and served until June 18, 1959.

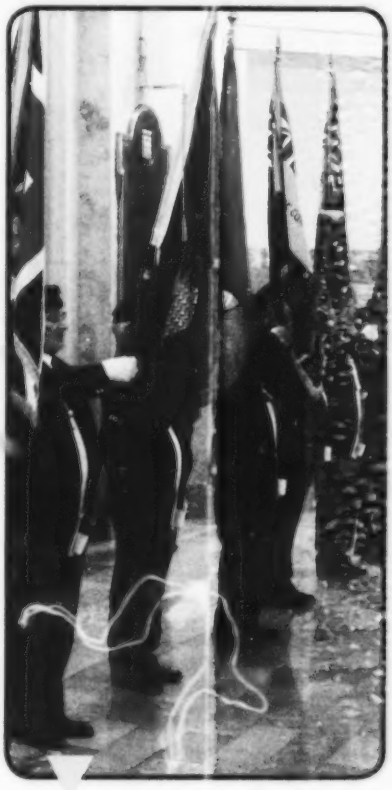
During his term of office Mr. Soetaert served on the select standing committees on Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education; Municipal Law; Privileges and Elections; Public Accounts; and Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

Bryan Melvin Strong

December 24, 1946 - December 25, 2006

Mr. Strong was elected on May 8, 1986, as the representative for the constituency of St. Albert for the New Democratic Party and served until March 20, 1989.

During his term of office Mr. Strong served on the select standing committees on Public Accounts and Public Affairs.



Remembrance Day, 2006.

January 26

EID-AL-ADHA

The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, hosted a ceremony recognizing Eid-al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice, in the rotunda on January 26. For Muslims around the world, the festival marks the end of the annual pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca. Participants included the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta; Mr. Mo Elsalhy, representing the Official Opposition; Mr. Brian Mason, leader of the third party opposition; Mr. Shiraz Shariff, MLA, Calgary-McCall; and Mr. Moe Amery, MLA, Calgary-East. The Ismaili Council for Edmonton made a presentation to the Edmonton Food Bank on behalf of Edmonton's Muslim community.

February 20

FAMILY DAY

As the kick-off to the Legislative Assembly's 100 Years of Democracy celebrations, Family Day at the Legislature 2006 featured the unveiling of banners in honour of Alberta's past Premiers and Speakers, ice sculptures and wagon rides around the Legislature grounds. Over 4,200 visitors took part in the free activities, which also included family entertainment in the Legislature pedway.

March 13

LES RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

On March 13 the Legislative Assembly of Alberta recognized the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta and Alberta's vibrant Francophone community at a ceremony in the Legislature rotunda. The event was hosted by the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and featured participation by the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta; Dr. Kevin Taft, Leader of the Official Opposition; Dr. Raj Pannu, MLA representing the third party opposition; and members of the Francophone community. Entertainment was provided by the Maurice Lavallée School and a member of the dance troupe Zéphyr.

March 15 to 16

100 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY

The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, hosted a two-day event for Members and former Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on March 15 and 16.

The event began with a reception in the lower rotunda of the Legislature Building in the afternoon of March 15. The day's events included historical group photos on the grand staircase in the Legislature rotunda followed by a special commemorative program during the afternoon sitting. Special remarks were offered by His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor; Mr. Raymond Speaker on behalf of all former Members; the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier; Dr. Kevin Taft, Leader of the Official Opposition; Mr. Brian Mason, leader of the third party opposition; and Mr. Paul Hinman, leader of the Alberta Alliance.

The evening program included dinner at the Delta South Hotel followed by formal remarks by His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor; the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier; and Mr. Peter Lougheed, former Premier. A toast to the Legislature was offered by Mr. Shiraz Shariff, Deputy Chair of Committees, and grace was given by Mr. Richard Marz, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

The evening's events were hosted by the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker, who presented each current and former Member with a copy of the *100 Years at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta – A Centennial Celebration* coffee table book, a set of medallions commemorating years of service and a Legislature tie or scarf.

The celebration continued the next morning with a brunch hosted by Speaker Kowalski at McKay Avenue School, the original meeting site of Alberta's first Legislative Assembly in 1906. At the event Speaker Kowalski presented a sneak peek at the Virtual Visit: Step Inside the Alberta Legislature interactive online tour of the Alberta Legislature Building. The ground-breaking tour was produced by Alberta Education in co-operation with the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Also featured that morning were readings of the winning essays from the What Democracy Means to Me essay contest. The contest was made available to all Alberta students and senior citizens. The winning youth essay was written by Jan Mitsosz Lisiecki, and the winning senior essay was written by Mr. Louis Warring.

April 24 and 25

MR. SPEAKER'S MLA FOR A DAY

Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day took place from April 24 to 25. During the two-day program, high school students from each of Alberta's 83 constituencies participated in interactive seminars that provided an in-depth look into a typical day of a Member of the Legislative Assembly. The program was a great success due in large part to the significant participation of the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Continued next page

May 4

VISIT BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

Their Excellencies the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, Governor General of Canada, and Mr. Jean-Daniel Lafond, CC, visited the Alberta Legislature on May 4 in celebration of 100 Years of Democracy in Alberta.

A signing of the Speaker's office distinguished visitors' book was held in the Legislature rotunda, followed by Her Excellency addressing the Assembly in the Legislature Chamber.

May 5 to 6

REGIONAL HISTORICA FAIR

More than 188 student projects were showcased in the Legislature pedway as part of the 11th annual Regional Historica Fair. Approximately 255 students took part in the fair by designing original displays based on Canadian heritage.

May 6

PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE NAVAL ENSIGN OF THE HMCS NONSUCH

On May 6 the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, unveiled a commemorative plaque installed on the third floor balustrade in honour of the HMCS *Nonsuch*. An HMCS *Nonsuch* Naval Ensign was hung in the rotunda in 1971. HMCS *Nonsuch* is the name of the Edmonton Division of the Canadian Navy (Reserve). Canada's coastal defence ships are crewed primarily by navy reservists.

May 10

PUBLIC LAUNCH OF THE VIRTUAL VISIT

On May 10 the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, officially launched the Virtual Visit: Step Inside the Alberta Legislature interactive online tour of the Legislature Building. Held in the Legislature rotunda, the event featured a live demonstration followed by the opportunity for students to take an online tour from any of the 16 computer stations on site. Louis Warring and Jan Mitsosz Lisiecki, the senior and youth winners of the What Democracy Means to Me essay contest, read their poems to the large audience made up primarily of students and educators.

May 15

PROVINCIAL PAGE SPEECH COMPETITION

The 12th annual Provincial Page Speech Competition, sponsored by TransAlta, was held May 15. Judging the competition were Deputy Speaker Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills; Vincent Tong, former page; and Willis Kachuk, co-ordinator of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association. On June 21 an award luncheon was hosted by Deputy Speaker Richard Marz, at which time the speech competition winners were announced. Taddes Korris was awarded first place, with Simon Fan and Jennifer Huygen finishing second and third place respectively.

May 16 to 17

CONSTITUENCY EMPLOYEE OUTREACH ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION SESSION

The Spring Constituency Employee Outreach Administrative Information Session was held on May 16 and 17 in Calgary. The 68 participants received training on administrative issues related to FMAS, ITS, and HRS and enjoyed special presentations from guest presenters.

June 6

VISIT OF THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF WESSEX

Speaker Kowalski hosted a luncheon at Government House on June 6 in honour of Their Royal Highnesses the Earl

PHOTO: Louis Warring, the senior winner of the essay contest What Democracy Means to Me, delivers his essay during the Virtual Visit public launch.

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and Countess of Wessex's visit to Alberta during the 100 Years of Democracy celebrations.

June 12

SWEARING-IN OF CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Speaker Kowalski presided over the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Electoral Officer Lorne Gibson on June 12, 2006. Representatives from each caucus expressed words of welcome. A short reception followed.

July 1

CANADA DAY

On July 1 thousands gathered to celebrate the ninth annual Canada Day at the Legislature. Festivities included a variety of free family entertainment throughout the grounds, and visitors were invited to tour the Legislature Building, including the Legislature Library and even walk the Chamber floor, a change in protocol reserved for Canada Day. The Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and Legislature tour guides welcomed visitors to the Chamber.

August 24

SPEAKER'S CUP

Due to the House reconvening on August 24 for an emergency summer session, the 19th Annual Speaker's Cup was postponed until 2007.

September 7

LAO FAMILY BARBEQUE

On September 7 the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, hosted LAO staff and their families for a barbeque at the lodge at Snow Valley. At the event the Speaker recognized the contributions of LAO staff to the 100 Years of Democracy celebrations.

September 26

PEACE AND POLICE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

The seventh annual Peace and Police Officers' Memorial Day ceremony recognizing Alberta peace and police officers who have died in the line of duty was held on September 26. The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, shared remarks on behalf of Alberta's Legislative Assembly. During the service a new Police Officers' Memorial was officially unveiled on the south Legislature grounds.

October 26

ANNUAL POPPY PRESENTATION

The Alberta-Northwest Territories Command of the Royal Canadian Legion launched its annual poppy campaign at the Alberta Legislature on October 26. During the ceremony, hosted by the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the first poppy of the provincial campaign was presented to His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor. Poppies were then presented to Speaker Kowalski; Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan; Mr. Hugh MacDonald, MLA representing the Official Opposition; the leader of the third party opposition, Mr. Brian Mason; and other attending MLAs.

November 9

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On November 9 Speaker Kowalski, along with Premier Ralph Klein, opposition leader Dr. Kevin Taft and leader of the third party opposition Mr. Brian Mason participated in a Remembrance Service held in the Legislature rotunda. Deputy Premier Shirley McClellan laid a wreath on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the youth of Alberta also laid wreaths. This ceremony was in memory of Albertans who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and United Nations and NATO operations.

November 20

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN, TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Not To Be Forgotten, a chronicle of the Soviet era in the Ukraine, was unveiled in the Legislature pedway long gallery on November 20. The event was hosted by the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, with greetings from the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

November 23

SERVICE REUNION DINNER

As part of the Legislative Assembly's 100 Years of Democracy celebrations, the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, hosted a Service Reunion dinner for 250 current and former staff of the Legislative Assembly. At the event the contributions made by Table Officers, Sergeants-at-Arms, managers of the Legislative Assembly office and Legislature pages were recognized.

As part of the afternoon festivities, guests participated in a group photo on the grand staircase, were received in the Chamber by Speaker Kowalski, enjoyed a light reception in the Confederation Room and participated in guided tours of the Legislature Building, Members' Way and the Interpretive Centre and Gift Shop.

In the evening Speaker Kowalski hosted a reception and dinner at the Crowne Plaza

Continued next page

- Chateau Lacombe. Group photos were taken with each of the former Speakers and the current Speaker and their staff. Greetings were offered by His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor; former page Lyell Shields; and former Legislative Assembly Office manager Karen Powell. Former Speaker Art Dixon offered grace, and current head page Jennifer Huygen proposed the toast.

November 30

WINTER CONSTITUENCY EMPLOYEE SEMINAR

On November 30 56 constituency staff attended the Winter Constituency Employee Seminar, held for the first time in the Legislature Chamber. In addition to a Live Meeting demonstration using onTAP and a look ahead at financial procedures for the fiscal year-end, Scrapbook *Hansard* Digital Library was internally launched, and constituency staff received training in writing and proofreading skills by *Hansard* experts. With the assistance of Table Officers participants prepared speeches to debate a bill through a mock Legislature. The historic day continued with a group photo with the Speaker and the chance to address questions directly to the Speaker in the House. The afternoon came to a close with the unveiling of a stained glass window in the Legislature Library in celebration of 100 Years of Democracy.

November 30

CELEBRATE THE SEASON AT THE LEGISLATURE

On November 30 the Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta, launched the festive season at the Legislature by switching on the Christmas lights on the grounds. The grounds were especially bright in 2006 due to BrightNights displays and ice sculptures in celebration of 100 Years of Democracy. The Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, brought greetings on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, and the U of A Mixed Chorus entertained visitors with a variety of Christmas carols.

From November 30 through December 23 guests to the Legislature were offered free hot chocolate and entertained by choirs in the rotunda. The Legislature pedway displayed Christmas trees decorated with handmade ornaments and gingerbread houses built by Edmonton and area students. During the holiday season almost 28,000 guests visited the Legislature to take part in the activities.

November 30

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DINNER

On November 30 the Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, hosted the annual Legislative Assembly Employee Recognition Dinner in celebration of the year's accomplishments. During the evening's festivities, constituency office staff and Legislative Assembly Office staff enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner followed by the presentation of service awards to staff with five, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of service.

December 7 to 9

TUKTU PRAYERS ART EXHIBIT

From December 7 to 9 the Alberta Legislature hosted the Tuktu Prayers Art Exhibit, which was assembled as part of Jasper national park's centennial celebrations in 2007. A selection of pieces from the traveling exhibit, which features 100 woodland caribou images by 30 artists from across Canada, were on display in the lower rotunda. The Legislature was the first stop in the cross-country journey of the exhibit. Jasper national park's woodland caribou are currently considered a threatened species.

December 14

PREMIER STELMACH SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The public swearing-in ceremony of Alberta's 13th Premier, the Hon. Ed Stelmach, was held on the front steps of the Legislature Building on December 14. Approximately 1,100 Albertans were present as Alberta's new Premier was sworn in by His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

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A number of youth parliament organizations hold events at the Legislature each year, and some use the Chamber for mock parliaments. In 2006 the following groups used the Legislature Building as a meeting place:

- Alberta Girls' Parliament was held on March 30;
- Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) met on April 4 ;
- Forum for Young Albertans was held from April 30 to May 7;
- University of Alberta Debate Society met on December 22;
- Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta was held from April 28 to 30;
- Alberta Debate and Speech Association met from November 17 to 18.

The Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) is a nonpartisan organization that provides support to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

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